

Hammersmith

CHRONICLE

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MENTAL HEALTH: WILL YOU HELP LONDONERS IN CRISIS?

Hammersmith's Barons Court Project has received a welcome boost from the Co-operative's local community fund.

The supermarket has already raised more than £5,000 for the charity through its membership card initiative.

When shoppers use their card to buy Co-operative branded items, one per cent of the value goes straight to charity.

The Barons Court Project works to support rough sleepers and those on low incomes in Hammersmith and Fulham, particularly those who have mental health problems.

Pictured here are Barons Court Project manager Michael Angus with North End Road store manager Rekha Jilka

FULL REPORT, PAGE 4



London Weekly News is proud to support an ambitious new campaign to tackle the stigma around mental health and raise vital funds towards life-changing treatments.

Our sister title, the South London Press, is teaming up with local charity Lambeth and Southwark Mind to shine a light on the hidden health problems in our community and make a real difference to thousands of lives.

The *Change Is Possible* appeal aims to banish many of the stereotypes and misconceptions that surround mental health. But we are also on a mission to raise tens of thousands of pounds for Mind, whose staff, trustees and volunteers work tirelessly every day to improve the health and wellbeing of some of London's most vulnerable people.

Launching the campaign, London Weekly News managing directors Philip Evans and Hannah Walker said: "We are delighted to be working with our fantastic charity partners

TURN TO PAGE 14

Police warning follows spate of thefts from cars

Sir Bernard urges motorists to make vehicles secure

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON'S top police officer has warned drivers to lock up their cars after a massive increase in the number of thefts from vehicles left parked on the streets of Hammersmith and Fulham.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe



Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe

urged motorists to keep their cars and vans hidden away in garages in a bid to deter thieves.

Official Met figures reveal that the number of vehicle thefts in the borough has rocketed by more than a third in the last year.

FULL REPORT, PAGE 5



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Lord Mayor's Dragon Awards for city businesses - see page 6

Prompting the next generation to take more care of the planet

BY JACK DIXON

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TRY explaining climate change to a four-year-old and you are guaranteed a blank stare. Even the most determined of parents would struggle to talk their tot through the planet's environmental plight before bedtime. But a talented author and illustrator believes the perfect picture can say a thousand words. "The children are listening to the words but following the pictures, so every page has got to work really hard to make sure they know what is going on," says Sophie Ambrose, a mother-of-two from Fulham, who published her first children's book in August.

Featuring page after page of beautiful illustrations, *The Lonely Giant* is her first venture into the world of children's literature.

The story tells the tale of a misguided giant whose destructive tendencies frighten away his animal friends and leave their woodland home in ruins.

Inspired by the birdsong of a friendly canary, he comes to realise the error of his ways and begins to rebuild the forest.

"It's a book aimed at three to six-year-olds and that is the area I love working in because it's something you can create completely yourself. You can come up with any story," adds Mrs Ambrose, 49, who crafted the entire book herself from scratch.

The idea came from a simple sketch she doodled during the final year project of her animation course at Kingston College in 2013.

"I'd drawn this tough looking character," she says. "He was bald and very muscly with a canary on his finger."

"I was trying to brainstorm ideas for books and I kept coming back to this sketch. It sparked the idea that when you are little everything around you looks enormous. You are dealing with these extremes of scale."



Sophie Ambrose with her first published children's book *The Lonely Giant*

As a child, Mrs Ambrose fell in love with the books of Where The Wild Things Are author Maurice Sendak as well as Edward Ardizzone and Hergé's Tintin series.

Inspired by the timeless drawings, she trained as an illustrator in her early 20s.

But her dream of becoming a children's author was shelved when she switched to advertising, and later design, before opting to focus on her two young children.

It was only in 2011 that she decided it was time to revive her literary ambitions by going back to college.

And little more than three years later she is celebrating the publication of her first book - while already hard at work on the second.

"It surprises people when they hear how much work goes into a picture book. It can take years to get one in the shops," she explains.

"It just shows that you are never too old to find your calling in life. If there is something you really want to do, then you should keep at it."

The Lonely Giant is a charming tale about the value of friendship - but it features a strong message about the importance of protecting the environment.

"We do have to look after our world, especially for the next generation coming up."

"We have got to think about what we do and how much we consume of its natural resources."

"You always want to make a fun story with a happy ending but there is no harm in starting children thinking about these things. Hopefully it can plant a small seed and when they grow up they will take a bit more care."

The Lonely Giant is available now from Walker Books.

Dementia friendly

CHARITY campaigners have teamed up with top politicians in a drive to make London the world's first dementia-friendly city by 2020.

The Alzheimer's Society is leading the initiative, which aims to improve life for the 72,000 Londoners living with memory loss conditions.

It wants to create a society where every person with dementia can live a "full life".

Launching the campaign at City Hall last week, campaigners said London could fire the starting gun for developments in research and health and social care.

Tim McLachlan, operations director for the Alzheimer's Society, said: "A city as dynamic as London can and should be a global leader in dementia care and dementia friendliness. Getting it right in London will inspire other cities across the globe to follow."

Mr McLachlan warned that the figure of 72,000 Londoners living with dementia was set to rise year on year unless drastic action was taken.

He added: "The time is now for each of us to recognise the part we must play in creating a dementia-friendly London for those living with dementia today and for the generations to come."

"Dementia is a cross-society issue and a challenge in London that cannot and must not be ignored."

The charity is working with partner organisations around the world to reduce the stigma faced by people living with the condition.

Its dementia friends programme aims to spread simple messages about ways in which Londoners can provide everyday assistance to people with memory loss.

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Fears for London restaurants

■ FROM PAGE ONE

"Supertraders are distorting the market," says the report.

"The aggressive expansion strategies of supertrader brands – such as Five Guys and Shake Shack – are temporarily pushing up market rents. The new chains are paying huge rents to secure desirable sites and expand to increase aggressive valuations.

"This is distorting market rates: when assessing how much rent a restaurant should be paying at the time of a rent review, landlords use the highest recent rent paid in the close vicinity of the restaurant being assessed as their benchmark.

"The issue is not the supertraders themselves as they are entitled to trade well. The issue is that not everyone on the street can be a supertrader, it's not realistic and this means when rent increases are based on the rent of the supertraders then really it's not comparing apples with apples."

Mr Abramson predicts a disaster looming, not just for the restaurants but for all of the visitor-dependent business.

"If nothing changes, the results could be catastrophic for London's historic restaurant sector," he said.

"Our research reveals that just 13 per cent of restaurateurs are confident that they will be able to carry on with business as usual if the rents and rates trends carry on as forecast. Given that the survey was undertaken in June 2016 before the result of the arrival of additional Brexit uncertainty, this is particularly worrying."

He added: Some people might argue it's no great loss if the capital's historic restaurants close. But a campaign to save the capital's long-established restaurants is not just about supply and demand, the capital's restaurants are more than just businesses. They're part of the social, architectural and social character of the city they serve.

And, given that the success that Central London's restaurants have – in part – contributed to their inability to remain there, it is not hard to imagine the consequences that their failure would bring.

"Now landlords, Local Authorities, the Government and restaurateurs themselves need to act. Having a real mix of restaurant operators is what makes London such an interesting restaurant revolution landscape – let's not lose it over greed."



Luke Johnson - landlords are "more ruthless"

Chance to see a softer side of the iron lady!

Baroness Thatcher's clothes to go on display at the V & A

By Geoff Baker

THE "quintessential 80s fashion" of the clothes of Margaret Thatcher are to go on display at the Victoria & Albert Museum.

The V&A is to open a special exhibition of the fashion of the late Baroness Thatcher in December.

The collection, which includes six outfits and a hat worn by the former British Prime Minister "at significant moments in her public and private life", has been donated to the V&A by her children, Sir Mark Thatcher and Carol Thatcher, and her grandchildren Michael Thatcher and Amanda Thatcher.

"These pieces will form an important addition to the museum's fashion collection. A selection from the gift will go on public display in December in the museum's fashion gallery," said a V&A spokeswoman.

"Throughout her life Baroness Thatcher used her wardrobe choices to reflect her role as a stateswoman. As she recalled in her 1993 memoir *The Downing Street Years*, "I took a close interest in clothes, as most women do: but it was also extremely important that the impression I gave was right for the political occasion".

The museum added: "The pieces given to the V&A reflect some of the key moments of her life as one of the most important figures in 20th-century political history. As leader of the Conservative Party from 1975 to 1990, blue was a significant colour which she wore regularly."

"The collection includes an iconic royal blue wool suit and matching silk blouse by the British company Aquascutum, who provided her with tailored suits throughout her career."

"The ensemble represents quintessential 1980s fashion with statement shoulder pads. Aquascutum also designed one of the most spectacular pieces in the gift: an evening suit of pink brocade with floor length skirt and a sleeveless, iridescent silk opera cape with sweeping train, which was made for the Lord Mayor's banquet in 1988 at London's Guildhall."

The gifted wardrobe also includes a caramel silk crepe day dress with a delicate floral print by Daphne Scrimgeour, the Baroness's personal dressmaker. The Prime Minister wore the dress,

which featured her trademark soft necktie detail, for the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in New Delhi in 1983, where she was photographed with Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India.

"The Baroness considered her sartorial choices a form of diplomacy; a long navy blue silk dress with gold flower motifs and flower shaped belt buckle designed by Jean Muir, a former trustee of the V&A, was worn when the former prime minister met Crown Prince Akihito of Japan," said the spokeswoman.

"The Baroness in her own words, 'made almost no concessions to formal dress' and said 'I believe that the public really likes its leaders to look business-like and well turned out'."

Baroness Thatcher also patronised London based couturier Tomasz Starzewski. The gift includes a wool crepe suit in striking fuchsia-pink, a colour favoured by her husband Sir Denis Thatcher. A printed silk dress and black coat with matching lining by the same designer also forms part of the collection.

The gift includes a wide brimmed, black slub silk hat with feathers and velvet-flecked tulle. Designed by Deida Acero, London, it was worn by Baroness Thatcher at Sir Denis's funeral in 2003 as well as for the funeral of former US President Reagan the following year.

Claire Wilcox, Senior Curator of Fashion at the V&A, said: "Baroness Thatcher was an internationally recognised political figure who used her wardrobe as a strategic tool to project power and inspire confidence."

"She was notable for supporting the British fashion industry, and patronised many of the leading designers of the day. Baroness Thatcher learnt to dress for the camera whilst in office, and interestingly, amended her wardrobe after the House of Commons became televised in November 1989."

"This gift constitutes a record of the working wardrobe of one of the most influential and powerful women of the twentieth century, and will form an important addition to the Museum's fashion collection."

Tim Reeve, Deputy Director of the V&A, said "I am delighted that this important selection of outfits has been given to the V&A and will be part of the national collection of dress. These care-



Margaret Thatcher in one of her distinctive suits with obligatory handbag

fully selected pieces tell an important story about Margaret Thatcher as a person as well as reflecting a significant period in British political history in the late 20th century."

Healthy eating for families

WESTMINSTER City Council has funded an inner-city food growing scheme, teaching families about healthy eating and giving children facing the risks of obesity access to healthier food.

The council has built food-growing gardens in eight housing estates across Westminster offering residents without gardens an opportunity to grow their own herbs and vegetables. The scheme aims to bring communities together and encourage families to grow their own fresh, healthy ingredients for cooking.

One such project is at Glas-tonbury House where a series of garden boxes have been installed in the middle of a busy housing estate, with residents offered their own patch of land to grow food on.

Promoting the scheme, a council spokesman said: "Take the example of nine-year-old Mohammed, lives on the estate and looks after his family's new garden box with his mum. He said: 'My mum went down to do some gardening and asked me if I wanted to go. Now I come down every day to water the plants. It's the first time I've done any gardening, I didn't know it could be fun. Now we use the vegetables we've grown in salad at home'."

Councillor Rachael Robathan, Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health at Westminster City Council said: "Tackling childhood obesity is one of the biggest challenges facing Westminster. Our food growing gardens are bringing communities together and creating a greater understanding of healthy eating across the city."

"We have a responsibility to do everything we can to ensure young people have a healthy childhood"

At the top of the literary class

ALMOST 90 per cent of primary school pupils in Westminster have passed this year's Department for Education literacy tests, placing Westminster as the top authority in inner London and second nationally.

Results from the 2016 phonics check on Year 1 pupils (ages 5-6), showed 88 per cent met the expected standard.

Councillor Danny Chalkley, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Westminster City Council, said: "This result underpins Westminster's exceptionally high standard of primary schools."

"The fact that we are now the second highest performing authority in the UK is further proof that our students receive the very highest quality education."

The phonics check requires pupils to correctly pronounce a list of 40 words and sounds. It was introduced to reinforce the DfE's adoption of reading and pronunciation as the mandatory technique for teaching the first stages of literacy in primary schools.

Over 95 per cent of Westminster schools are currently rated Good

At last a Michelin star for city's oldest Indian restaurant

AFTER nine decades of trading as one of the West End's finest restaurants, Veeraswamy has won a prized 90th birthday present – a Michelin star.

The famous Regent Street rendezvous, Britain's oldest Indian restaurant, has been awarded its first star in the 2017 Michelin Guide for the high quality of its cooking.

Veeraswamy was opened just off aptly-named Swallow Street in 1926 by Edward Palmer, a retired Indian Army officer and the great-grandson of an English general and an Indian princess. It is the oldest surviving Indian restaurant in Britain and is now owned by the Chutney Mary group.

The restaurant has long been a haunt of the famous and notable diners at Veeraswamy have included Winston Churchill, King Gustav VI of Sweden, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and

Charlie Chaplin.

Veeraswamy is also said to be the home of the tradition of drinking lager with an Indian meal. According to legend, the origins of the custom may be related to Prince Axel of Denmark's visit to the Veeraswamy-connected Indian restaurant at the British Empire Exhibition on 2 May 1924.

He enjoyed his meal and later visited the Regent Street restaurant, apparently bringing a barrel of Carlsberg with him. He enjoyed his meal again, and decided to send a barrel of the Danish royal beer to the restaurant every year thereafter. The beer proved popular, so the restaurant started importing Carlsberg.

Now the restaurant where main courses range from £20 to £28.50 is famed for its specialities including roast duck Vindaloo, chicken Makhani, Kerala prawn curry and Kashmiri Rogan Josh.

According to the new Michelin Guide, London's top restaurants – with three stars each – are Gordon Ramsay in Chelsea and Alain Ducasse at The Dorchester.

Nine of the capital's restaurants have been awarded two stars in the Guide; Ledbury in North Kensington, Marcus in Belgravia, Dinner by Heston Blumenthal at Hyde Park and Araki, Le Gavroche, Greenhouse, Hélène Darroze at The Connaught, Sketch and Umu in Mayfair.

Central London restaurants which have newly-won their first Michelin star include: The Ninth, Ellory, Pidgin, Five Fields, Trinity, Celeste and The Ritz Restaurant.

Those that have lost a star include Launceston Place in Kensington, Wild Honey in Mayfair and L'Autre Pied in Regent's Park.

First steps towards culinary fame

WESTMINSTER Kingsway College's Hospitality & Culinary Arts students celebrated the largest ever Graduation Ceremony from the Professional Chef and Hospitality faculty with family and friends at St Stephen's Church in central London.

The graduation was held for students who had undertaken one of the following courses: Professional Chef Diploma Level 1, 2 & 3, Advanced Apprenticeships and Apprenticeships in Food & Drink, Hospitality Services and Professional Cookery, BTEC National in Hospitality and Supervision, Craft Guild of Chefs Awards in Professional Cookery, Professional Food and Beverage Service with WSET, Professional Patisserie Scholarship and Royal Academy of Culinary Arts Chef Apprenticeship (RACA).

Graduates and their families were addressed by Gary Hunter, Vice Principal for Hospitality & Adult Learning. Following the Graduation an awards ceremony was held to commend some of the students who had excelled during their time at the College.

Michael Seedin, Professional Chef Diploma 1, 2 & 3 graduate, said: "Before studying at Westminster Kingsway College, I had no knowledge of the industry. I now feel fully equipped with the skills I need to progress my career as a chef, and I already have a job at the Woodford, which is run by Ben Murphy who is also Westminster Kingsway Alumni."

"The Woodford has only been open for six months and it has already been up for three awards, and so far won Best Restaurant of The Year 2016. My hopes for the future is become a head chef running my own restaurant, but right now I'm just focusing on working hard and getting as much experience as I can."

Gary Hunter, Vice Principal for Hospi-



Successful students who have graduated from Westminster Kingsway College's hospitality and culinary arts

tal & Adult Learning, said: "This is the largest Graduation Ceremony that we have ever held in history of Hospitality & Culinary Arts at Westminster Kingsway College. We have also given out more awards than ever before, and this year we have also seen the highest achievements ever for our Hospitality BTEC Diploma students."

"It has been an incredibly successful year for the college, and I am extremely proud of the team for all their efforts, hard work and dedication. The college is supported by many important partners and we would like to extend our thanks to them for their significant role in helping us to deliver the type of world-class training and education that will enable our graduates to go on to achieve future

industry success."

Kim Caplin, Westminster Kingsway College Principal, said: "Our Hospitality and Culinary Arts students have worked so hard to achieve their graduation that their sense of excitement and jubilation is palpable. This is a truly fantastic event, made even better this year with record numbers of students attending."

"It is also an exciting time for me, in my first year as College Principal, as I have been able to meet so many of our incredible supporters and key people within the industry. We wish all of our graduates the very best for the future, on what we are confident will be, a successful career ahead."

Upon leaving St Stephen's Church, the graduates were honoured by current chef students with a culinary orchestra, with further celebrations continuing at the College's Vincent Rooms.

No place for hate crime

THERE is no place for hate in Westminster and the council strongly believes no one should be a victim of a crime simply because of who they are or what they believe in.

In Westminster 9 per cent of residents feel the city is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together.

Cllr Nickie Aiken, Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Westminster City Council, said: "Westminster is at the heart of one of the most diverse cities in the world. We are incredibly proud of our diversity and consider it one of the city's key strengths. But we know there are still important challenges we need to address to make sure Westminster remains a place where everyone feels they belong and are safe."

Earlier this year, the council launched a Community Cohesion Commission to better understand what makes communities more cohesive and how the council can address the possible root causes of hate crime as well as other issues such as radicalisation.

The council is calling for experiences of community cohesion in Westminster and wants to know more could be done to make the city a place where everyone feels they belong and are safe.

Writing for you every week, London's most outspoken entrepreneur

Charlie pipes up!



'Bonkers' when you let customers down

As the UK now has to 'make its own way' as the Prime Minister put it in her Tory party conference speech last week, British business really has to stand out to be seen in the competitive international marketplace.

And while UK businesses need to develop the best and most innovative products and services to compete, we also need to ensure that we are also head and shoulders above the rest when it comes to dealing with customers.

So often companies put a huge amount of time and money into winning new business, but just as often what comes next lets them down, and that's just bonkers!

Regardless of whether a business have just won a large contract, or convinced a new customer to try out a small sample of what they have to offer, be under no illusion, this is not the end of the sales process!

Firms are then on a job interview and not one run by a Lord making a bunch of muppets run round London flogging cheap tat.

Bagging a sale may have got them through the initial screening process, but the real job is to convince the customer to keep the firm on, by coming back again and again, and becoming a loyal customer.

And, in my more than 35 years in business I have discovered only one way of converting that opportunity, and that's by winning over your new customers' hearts and minds with exemplary customer service.

It's easy to see how this situation can develop. People generally go into business to offer customers something for which there is a demand, and that they can provide on a commercial basis. I served my time as an apprentice

plumber and heating engineer, and when I came out of my apprenticeship I dived straight in to set up my own business.

During my time as an apprentice I'd like to think I picked up some pretty useful skills that meant, as I tell all my young apprentices, that I would never be out of work while I could still lift a spanner.

But it turns out that the most important thing I picked up during my apprenticeship was the understanding that people didn't just want their toilet unblocked, what they really wanted was a great service that fitted in with their lives.

So, what I did, that many of my contemporaries didn't, was I listened to all the things customers said was wrong with the service they were currently receiving, and set out to give them what they were asking for.

To me that seemed like just common sense, but it turned out that not only is common sense not that common, but what I was doing without recognising it, was offering better 'customer service' than the other plumbers.

Unsurprisingly, my business grew and grew, and most of those other blokes stayed as one man bands. Many of them were every bit as good at plumbing as me, but the customer service let them down and their businesses didn't grow.

For me I think winning over the hearts and minds of customers is the hardest part of running a business, and yet it's the most important.

Sure your product or service has to be good, and you need to bring in new business to grow your operation, but if you can't hang on to it you are wasting your time, and like I said that's just bonkers!

Views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper



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Police chief warns: lock up your motors

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON'S top police officer has warned drivers to lock up their cars after a massive increase in the number of thefts from vehicles left parked on the streets of Hammersmith and Fulham.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe urged motorists to keep their cars and vans hidden away in garages in a bid to deter thieves.

Official Met figures reveal that the number of vehicle thefts in the borough has rocketed by more than a third in the last year.

The statistics point to a worrying 34 per cent spike in offences in Hammersmith and Fulham. This compares to a less significant increase of 14 per cent across the whole of London, suggesting the borough has become a hotspot for car thieves.

At a community event in Shepherd's Bush, Sir Bernard said: "I know it sounds simple but the best thing you can do is put your car in the garage. If you have a garage, please put your car in it."

recorded 210 extra vehicle theft offences compared to the previous 12 months.

The figures also revealed an overall rise in recorded crime of 3.2 per cent in Hammersmith and Fulham last year.

Sir Bernard, who will step down as Met commissioner in February after five years in the job, said police are working to target offenders in the borough.

But he warned that thieves are becoming better equipped at breaking into vehicles.

"We have increased the number of people in our stolen-vehicle squad and we are doing a lot to try to prevent it," he said. "We do a lot to arrest people who are stealing cars."

He also said efforts are being made to encourage manufacturers to change the design of cars to make them less vulnerable to thieves.

"All manufacturers have got long lines of production, which take a long time to interrupt," he said. "Before they can redesign their cars, we have got to find a solution."

At one of his final community roadshow events as Met

commissioner, Sir Bernard also gave assurances that every ward in Hammersmith and Fulham would be manned by at least two police officers by the end of next year – despite his resignation.

Concerns had been raised about the future of ward officers following the shock announcement last month.

But he said he is confident that the plan to bolster the number of bobbies on the beat would be delivered.

Sir Bernard will remain in post until February but his successor will be responsible for delivering the plan.

He said: "By the end of next year every ward will have at least two officers. That will survive me leaving, unless anybody takes the budget away. But I am confident that the plan will be delivered."

According to Met surveys, 84 per cent of people in Hammersmith and Fulham have confidence in the police force.

Almost 92 per cent of 999 emergency calls in the borough were responded to within the target time last year, compared to around 87 per cent across London.



Talented photographers from a Hammersmith estate have picked up prizes for snapping green schemes in their neighbourhood. Residents on the Queen Caroline estate were encouraged to take pictures as part of a £1.3 million project designed to introduce a range of environmentally friendly initiatives. Over the last two years new landscaping and shrubberies have been installed, along with water-permeable paving and flood-proof rain gardens. Happy snappers photographed the green schemes during an event in July and the pictures were displayed at an exhibition in August. Nine-year-old Gabriel's entry (pictured) impressed the judges to win the young persons' prize, while five other residents of the estate picked up separate awards

Musicians from Down Under are tops

A TOP orchestra travelled halfway around the world – to perform for children at a Shepherd's Bush school.

Musicians from the Turramurra High School Wind Orchestra visited Hammersmith Academy after flying from Sydney, Australia.

The visit was organised as part of a project to encourage youngsters to take up a musical instrument or join a band. Several pupils, from Year 8 through to the sixth

form, joined in with the orchestra as they performed at the school – with one even manning the soundboard in the control room.

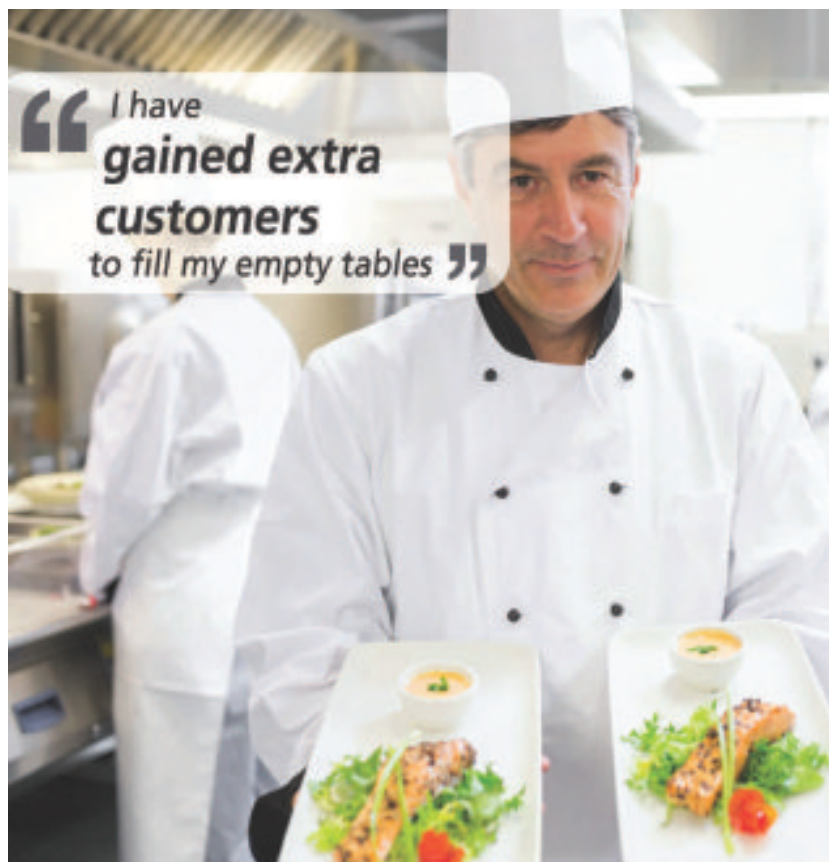
Year 11 pupil Shomar Williams said: "It was amazing to work with and be around such talented people. It really shows that music can bring people together from different parts of the world."

Band leader Mark Barnsley said that although most

of the pupils were much younger than the Turramurra troop, they were not fazed by the challenge.

The Hammersmith children were joined on stage by the academy's head of music Jaime Gibson.

He said: "Bringing out the Sydney-based wind orchestra to workshop and perform with our students was designed to ignite their desire to learn orchestral instruments and join an ensemble."



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Lord Mayor's Awards for city businesses going the extra mile

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

NEARLY 500,000 Londoners have benefitted because of the charitable and voluntary work of London's companies which have been honoured at the Lord Mayor's Dragon Awards, hosted by the Lord Mayor of the City of London.

The annual awards, run by the City of London Corporation, revealed that this year's applicants supported nearly 500,000 Londoners, creating over 14,500 jobs and investing more than £10 million in their communities and local enterprises.

This year's applicants mobilised 21,528 business volunteers who contributed over 110,000 hours to community groups, disadvantaged Londoners and schools.

The Lord Mayor's Dragon Awards recognise responsible businesses of all sizes and sectors which go above and beyond their normal work to help regenerate communities in London.

The winners:

Lord Mayor's Award for Long Standing Achievement: Dentons, for its 10-year commitment to the Poplaw Legal Advice Clinic which it runs in Tower Hamlets. Since opening, Poplaw has provided over 10,000 hours of free legal advice to those usually unable to access these services. The estimated saving to the local community is £4.8 million in legal fees.

Heart of the City Award for Best New Community Programme: Penguin Random House UK, for launching a new Creative Responsibility strategy which commits to supporting 7,500 young people through a partnership with Ministry of Stories, 500 children through a reading programme and increasing the company's inclusivity by removing the requirement for a university degree from all its jobs.

A second Heart of the City Award for Best New Community Programme: SME Winner Asael Architecture, for its Giving Something Back programme. The programme has an impressive 95 per cent staff participation rate, with employees donating 1,560 hours to mentoring architecture students and young people, reviving a derelict playground and reducing isolation for 28 local elderly and vulnerable individuals.

The Future Proofing Charities Award: Oliver Wyman, for its Social Impact Programme which delivers free consulting for not-for-profit firms and charities who want to achieve greater social



The Lord Mayor of London, Lord Mountevans, centre, with representatives of all seven winners of the Dragon Awards

Photos by Nick Slade

impact. 90% of the charities the company supported stated that it has helped them to achieve long-term impact.

The Education and Lifelong Learning Award: Liberum Capital, for its partnership with School Home Support. The partnership aims to help local disadvantaged children and young people to improve their literacy skills, confidence and aspirations, working not only with pupils but with their parents to provide a rounded approach. 50 pupils benefit from this programme every year - many of whom face homelessness, domestic violence and extreme poverty.

The Enterprise and Employment Award: Transport for London, for its Supplier Skills scheme, which has made it a requirement for suppliers to create skills and employment opportuni-

ties for disadvantaged Londoners as a condition of doing business with TfL. The company has supported their suppliers to create over 4,500 apprenticeships and bring over 5,000 workless Londoners into employment.

Community Partners Award: Tower Hamlets Education Business Partnership, for its founding partnership with Lloyd's of London, which now includes 54 companies from across the Lloyd's market, all of whom volunteer through the programme to support young people to prepare for the world of work.

Jeffrey Mountevans, the out-going Lord Mayor of the City of London, said: "Responsible business are stronger, more sustainable and more relevant to society, giving them a competitive edge over their rivals."

"The best and the brightest want to work for responsible businesses. For many young talented young people the most important factor when it comes to searching for a job isn't the pay or the lifestyle, but their prospective employer's community work."

"These firms are an example of how the private sector can make a tremendous difference. They provide vital support, including free legal advice where provision has been cut, support for school children and their parents where educational attainment has been low, and help for small businesses to grow, creating new jobs for Londoners."

"These initiatives are an important investment in the businesses' workforce, London's communities and the collective future of both London, and the entire UK."

The Lord Mayor's Dragon Awards, now in its 29th year, is among the most established and distinguished business-community engagement awards in the UK.

Since it was founded in 1987, it has attracted



Dentons won the Lord Mayor's Award for Long Standing Achievement



Asael Architecture were presented with a Heart of the City Award for Best New Community Programme

high quality applications from a variety of organisations throughout London, setting the bar for excellence in business engagement in communities.

The Lord Mayor's Dragon Awards form one part of the City of London Corporation's commitment to supporting businesses to have a positive social impact on their communities.

As part of this drive, the Corporation also delivers City Action - a flagship employee volunteering matchmaking service for City-based businesses - and, along with the City Bridge Trust - the City of London Corporation's charitable funder - funds Heart of the City - a charity offering support for companies in London that are interested in Corporate Social Responsibility.

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Sir Terry Wogan

Children in Need will rock the Albert Hall in memory of Terry

TAKE That will headline a gala show at the Royal Albert Hall next month for a Children in Need tribute to Sir Terry Wogan.

The concert on November 1 will celebrate the life of the legendary broadcaster with a selection of his all-time favourite music.

Other artists including Ellie Goulding, Olly Murs, Gregory Porter, Michael Ball, Alfie Boe, Rick Astley, Alexander Armstrong, The Vamps and Ward Thomas will perform at Children in Need Rocks For Terry, a fundraiser for the BBC charity which will be hosted by Fearnie Cotton and Radio 1 presenter Greg James.

"A combination of songs that Sir Terry loved, or had a connection with, will lie at the heart of the concert," said a BBC spokesman.

It is believed that these will include songs chosen by the late Sir Terry when he was the cast-away on Desert Island Discs; Randy Newman's That'll Do, Sinatra's My Funny Valentine, Carly Simon's In The Wee Small Hours Of The Morning, As Time Goes By and songs by the late Eva Cassidy, who Sir Terry championed on his Radio 2 show.

The national treasure hosted Children in Need from its launch in 1980, only missing last year's charity event due to ill health. Sir Terry died of cancer, aged 77, on January 31 this year.

"It has been an honour working with Sir Terry across the years on Children in Need and it's a privilege to be hosting Rocks in celebration of his life," said Fearnie Cotton.

Take That are performing at the concert in tribute to Sir Terry as one of their first ever TV appearances was on Sir Terry's chat show, Wogan, in 1991.

Greg James said: "Sir Terry was, in my eyes, the ultimate broadcaster. A friend to millions on his radio show and a hero to millions more through his work with Children in

Need. It's an absolute honour to be asked to be part of the concert. It's going to be a brilliant night."

The evening will include archive depicting Sir Terry's incredible radio and television career including a chance to relive one of 'The Radio 2 Janet and John' stories, which he told on his Radio 2 Breakfast Show.

Appeal films telling the stories of the children and young people supported by the charity will be played across the evening and the BBC Concert Orchestra, the Crouch End Festival Chorus and the Brighouse and Rastrick Band will be on stage to accompany performances.

A BBC spokesman said: "The concert is to be broadcast on BBC One during the week of the annual BBC Children in Need Appeal. It will also be broadcast on BBC Radio 2 and the concert and TV show will raise money for BBC Children in Need - the charity that Sir Terry held so closely to his heart and which, with his invaluable support and dedication for more than thirty years, has raised more than £840 million for disadvantaged children and young people across the UK."

Tickets are available from www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey.

Take That will perform at Children in Need Rocks for Terry



The weird and wonderful world of rubbish

AN environmental waste clearance company has revealed the most weird items it has discovered in its skips in the last five years in London - including a Pope's bones and a nude painting of Albert Einstein.

Teams from EnviroWaste have been keeping a record of the weird items found in hauls, which have included the bones of Apostle St Clement - the third ever Pope, and a dead, stuffed cat dressed up like a baby.

Other finds included: A nude painting of Albert Einstein, a life-sized rubber doll (still inflated), a fully working Apple Macbook, a vacuum-sealed £5 note with Prince Charles' signature, a prosthetic leg, a bag of body hair and a shoebox filled with dozens of mouse skeletons.

James Rubin, owner of EnviroWaste, said: "The majority of these items were found in domestic clearances where a person has passed away and EnviroWaste has been hired to dispose of the contents of their house in an environmentally friendly way. London as we all know is a very vibrant and diverse place with lots of quirks, so it's not surprising that we come across some really unusual and wonderful items."

"Often these unusual items can pose a problem on how to dispose of them in an environmentally safe way. For instance, the stuffed dead cat ended up going to a collector - minus the onesie - and the nude Einstein painting went home with one of our employees."

Lipizzaner horses return to London

THE Spanish Riding School of Vienna return to London next month for a show to mark its 450th anniversary.

The world's oldest and most famous equestrian academy will perform at the SSE Arena, Wembley, from November 11 to 13.

The Spanish Riding School in Vienna is the only institution worldwide where classical equitation in the Renaissance tradition of the haute école is still preserved and practiced in its original form.

"Many years of training fuse horse and rider into an inseparable unit. Audiences are treated to an unforgettable experience by the precision of movement of the Lipizzaner horses in perfect harmony with the music," said a spokesman.

"The UK shows are an impressive display classical equitation. Audiences will be mesmerised by the absolute balance and harmony achieved by these beautiful White Lipizzaner stallions and their regal riders."

"All of their famous in-hand work and movements above the ground will be performed including the Capriole, an upward leap made without going forward and with a backward kick of the hind legs at the height of the leap, the Levade in which the stallion puts its entire weight on its hind legs and raises its front legs no more than 45 degrees and Courbette where the horse raises its forehead off the ground, tucks up forelegs evenly, and then jumps forward in a series of hops."

The London shows will be hosted by TV pre-

sender and British dressage ambassador Nicki Chapman. She said: "The Spanish Riding School of Vienna tours are rare and exceptional. I've witnessed first hand these graceful horses thrilling crowds with their astonishing combination of elegance and power. This is an extraordinary, once in a lifetime opportunity to witness these most celebrated, world renowned horses performing in the UK during their anniversary."



The Spanish riding school of Vienna will be performing in London in November

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Gyratory plan: feedback taken

A CONSULTATION on plans for the redesign of the Hammersmith gyratory has now closed.

Transport chiefs and council bosses will review all responses before finalising the proposals.

The redesign aims to deliver a safer and more direct east-to-west cycle route through Hammersmith town centre.

But critics have warned that the shake-up could bring traffic to a standstill and delay people's journeys into work.

According to the plans, Transport for London will create a kerb-segregated two-way route for cyclists on the north side of the gyratory, with separate cycle signals to protect them from cars.

The new system has been tipped as a key step in breaking down one of the main barriers for cyclists in west London.

Extra cycle tracks would be created in King Street and Queen Caroline Street, while the island at the junction of Hammersmith Broadway and Butterwick would be increased in order to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians.

Further changes include adding a new bus lane on Beadon Road, de-cluttering pavements by removing street furniture and installing pedestrian "countdown" clocks at several crossings on the gyratory.

A TfL spokesman said: "We are investing in the capital's vital road network to ensure London's roads are able to meet the needs of a growing population. Hammersmith gyratory is used by many cyclists each day and can be an intimidating place to cycle."

Construction work could start next year if the plans are approved.

Man guilty of neglecting cats

A MAN has been found guilty of neglecting seven cats by letting them live in his filthy home and almost allowing them to starve to death.

Adam Elliot, 52, kept his pets in sordid conditions and allowed four of the seven cats to significantly lose weight.

One cat suffered a serious leg injury which Elliot failed to treat while the animal lived in his home in Westminster.

He was charged under the Animal Welfare Act with three counts of failing to ensure the cats were adequately cared for.

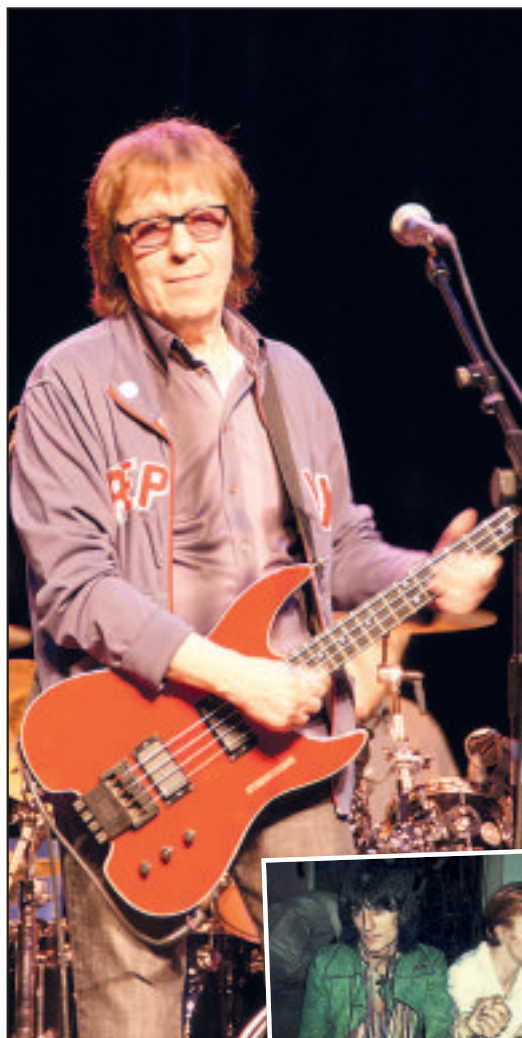
At Wimbledon Magistrates' Court, Elliot, who failed to appear at the hearing, was found guilty and a warrant has now been issued for his arrest.

The seven cats have all now been rehomed by the RSPCA.

An RSPCA spokesperson said: "The cats were found and removed from a flat in Morden in a neglected state, following an eviction. Some of the cats were underweight, one had an untreated injury to the leg and the environment in which they were kept was unsuitable."



One of the seven cats that was found at Elliot's house



Bill Wyman in traditional pose, and right, with David Bowie



Bill says it in pictures

ROCK royalty is expected to turn out in Chelsea next week for the big birthday exhibition launch of a different side of London's most-legendary bass guitarist, as founder Rolling Stone Bill Wyman turns 80, writes Geoff Baker.

Bill, who played in the Stones from 1962 to 1993, is to host a show of his photography at the King's Road gallery Proud Chelsea, which opens on October 19.

The exhibition, 'Around the World in 80 Years', features many previously unpublished photographs and provides a behind the scenes look at the Stones, from their early formative years to becoming the greatest rock and roll band in the world.

Bill, who first met co-founders Keith Richards, Mick Jagger and Brian Jones at The Wetherby Arms on the King's Road in December 1962, close to where they shared a flat in Edith Grove, was known as The Silent Stone for his deadpan, non-moving performance.

But off the stage he was always busy with his camera, capturing the moments that the fans never saw.

"I prefer to keep out of the way and capture candid photographs that are unstaged and natural," said Bill, who will celebrate his 80th birthday on October 24th.

"During his time in the Stones, Bill captured an up-front and personal look at the band from the inside, as the

rest of the world had never seen them before," said a Proud spokesman.

"Soon his fellow band members became accustomed to him and his camera, resulting in honest, natural shots of rare and private moments in their lives, whilst cutting tracks in the recording studio, barefoot during rehearsals and behind-the-scenes moments with family and friends.

"This photographic retrospective of his life on the road offers unique access to intimate moments and everyday scenes of one of the most prolific rock bands in history.

"He has selected some of his personal favourite photographs from his extensive archive to be exhibited, including a glimpse of Brian Jones from the rear view mirror on the way to the 1967 European tour and Mick Jagger reading from the bible backstage before a concert for the blind."

Bill, who was born William Perks in Lewisham and spent most of his early life living in a terraced house in one of the roughest streets in Sydenham – a childhood he described as "scarred by poverty" – is also hosting a star-studded rock and roll party to mark him becoming an octogenarian.

He is to front a one-night-only concert of his favourite songs at Blues Fest at Indigo O2 on October 28, where his band will include Robert Plant, Mark Knopfler, Mick Hucknall, Bob Geldof, Imelda May and "other surprise guests" who are believed to include members of the Stones.

Policemen badly hurt in road incident

A SUSPECTED drug driver left two police officers with serious injuries when a 4x4 reversed into them at speed.

The two officers had attempted to stop a Nissan Juke at around 1am on Friday morning to speak to the driver.

But when they got out of their car the 4x4 reversed and smashed into them and a van, causing serious injuries.

One officer was rushed to hospital while the other was treated at the scene, while emergency services closed off the road in Farringdon.

A 28-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder and driving under the influence of drugs.

He remains in police custody. A police spokesperson said: "On Friday, 7 October shortly before 01:00 hours officers from City of London Police attempted to stop a car in Farringdon Road, EC1.

"The car stopped on Farringdon Road at the junction with Bakers Rowe, EC1.

"When officers exited the police vehicle and attempted to speak to the driver, the car was driven in reverse colliding with two officers and a van.

"Two City of London officers sustained injuries. The London Ambulance Service was called and one male officer was taken to a north London hospital and was later discharged.

"The other officer was treated at the scene and was not taken to hospital.

"The 28-year-old male driver of the car – a Nissan Juke – was arrested at the scene on suspicion of attempted murder and driving under the influence of drugs.

"He is currently in custody at a central London police station. Road closures were in place. Officers from Islington CID are investigating."

Palace arrest: man charged

A 21-YEAR-OLD man has been charged after allegedly climbing a gate at Buckingham Palace on Friday afternoon.

Daniel Sheehan, 21, was arrested for trespassing on a protected site.

The homeless man, who was not carrying a weapon, was assessed by a police psychiatrist before being questioned.

The Queen and other members of the Royal family were not at the Palace at the time.

A Scotland Yard spokesman explained: "A man has been charged after allegedly climbing a gate at Buckingham Palace.

"Daniel Sheehan, 21, of no fixed abode, was charged on Saturday with two counts of trespass.

Sheehan was due to appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court on Monday this week in connection with the incident.

Pay increase

KENSINGTON and Chelsea council is to give its cleaners a pay rise of more than £2 an hour.

Labour councillors said they had repeatedly demanded that the 71 Tenant Management Organisation estate cleaners employed by the council's sub-contractors OCS should be paid the London Living Wage.

Councils reach out to young people in fresh campaign to target knife and drug culture

BY LWN REPORTER
edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A NEW online platform has been launched that realistically portrays the full impact of drug dealing and carrying knives.

Created as a resource for professionals working with young people, the platform – called The Trap – is an initiative of the Youth Offending Services of Westminster council, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, and Hammersmith and Fulham council, supported by funding from the London Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime.

The Trap centres around two films, *PWITS* and *Deep It*, that show the devastating impact drug dealing can have on not just dealers but their families and friends, as well as challenging the common belief that carrying a knife makes a person safer.

The films were made by young people from the three London boroughs together



'The Trap is an excellent example of what can be achieved when the police and local authorities work alongside young residents to solve issues that are affecting them and their communities'

with two film companies that specialise in co-producing films with hard to reach and disadvantaged groups, Latimer and Fully Focused Productions.

Councillor Nickie Aiken, Cabinet Member for Public Protection at Westminster council, said: "Talking to young people about the very real impacts of drug dealing and carrying knives is an important part of preventing these crimes from happening in the first place.

"The Trap is an excellent example of what can be achieved when the police and local authorities work

alongside young residents to solve issues that are affecting them and their communities."

Betty McDonald, Head of Youth Offending Services at Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea, and Hammersmith and Fulham councils, said: "The impact on communities as a result of youth violence and disorder often leads to victims being missed or forgotten. We therefore decided to create a high quality resource that has credibility with young people, using a platform that can be accessed by all to challenge the view that

these crimes are 'victimless'. We hope this resource will be shared and used creatively to support and challenge young people to make positive choices in their lives away from crime.

"The young people involved in the making of these films went through a powerful journey, which involved delving into their own emotional and personal issues as well as learning the technical skills of film making and the societal issues the films cover.

"Some of these young people have been so inspired that they are going on to work with the film companies further and possibly pursue careers in the industry."

The Trap will also feature accompanying interviews, discussion points and lesson plans for professionals, to further educate and challenge common perceptions of drug dealing and knife crimes as 'victimless'.

All material is now available on thetrapuk.com

New fleet of Boris bikes to be rolled out over 23 years



■ THE next generation Santander Cycles will be introduced on-street from next year as the older bikes are retired.

The new models include:

- 2kg lighter than existing models
- new gear hub for smoother shifting
- more comfortable gel saddle
- smaller 24-inch wheels and 10mm lower frame

BY JACK DIXON

jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A NEW fleet of 'Boris bikes' which should now be renamed 'Sadiq's saddles' is set to be rolled out across London over the next 23 years.

London's world-famous cycle-hire system, named after the former mayor Boris Johnson, is due to be upgraded at a rate of 500 per year to replace the older models.

But because there are 11,500 bikes currently in service, it will take almost a quarter of a century to complete the upgrade.

The new bikes will feature smaller wheels, a lower frame, a redesigned gear hub and more comfortable seats.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said: "I'm delighted to be able to announce the next generation of bikes for our popular cycle hire

scheme.

"It's already known across the world as a convenient way to get around our city, so it's great news that these lighter, British-made bikes will make it even easier for everyone.

"Cycling is good for our health, air quality and congestion, and that's exactly why I'm working so hard to make it safer and easier for all Londoners."

Currently, there are 11,500 bikes and 22,000 docking stations between Camden Town in the north, Battersea in the south, Mile End in the east and Shepherd's Bush in the west.

The most active bike in the fleet has racked up more than 5,000 trips, while the Santander Cycles app has been downloaded more than 275,000 times, with eight per cent of all hires booked through the app.

Paul Cowperthwaite, TfL's General Manager of Santander Cycles, said: "We've had six

successful years of London's cycle hire scheme but we're looking to the future and are excited to be able to bring the next generation of Santander Cycles to London's streets.

"The new bikes will be lighter and slightly smaller, to encourage even more people to have a go, and will be made by Pashley Cycles, which has a rich history of producing bikes in the UK dating back to 1926."

Keith Moor, chief marketing officer at Santander, said: "Since we took over the sponsorship of the iconic Santander Cycles 18 months ago, we have helped make it easier and more rewarding to cycle in London.

"We are always looking at ways to improve the scheme and encourage more people to give it a try.

"These new cycles will make it even easier and more accessible for people looking to enjoy London from a new perspective."



Transforming eye health



A Great Sight

A new range of glasses from Specsavers is specially designed to be the most comfortable yet

We all know how great it feels to find something that fits us perfectly – and that's never more important than with things we wear every day, like our glasses. With many of us relying on our glasses more and more as we get older, it's no surprise that there's a demand for specs that not only do the job, but feel great to wear, too.

In fact, when Specsavers carried out in-depth research last summer to find out what customers over the age of 65 wanted from a pair of glasses, the number-one answer was comfort and a great fit. As a result, they've developed a new range, ComFit, which puts comfort and fit at its core.

"They're the best glasses I've had so far," says Anne Cooper, 75, who recently tried a new pair of ComFit glasses. **They were so comfortable!** Sometimes I didn't even realise I had them on.

The ComFit range features cushion-like gel pads, so you can wear them all day long without any irritation. A discreet silicon lining makes even a heavy bridge unnoticeable and extra soft arm tips are designed to stop glasses from irritating the delicate skin behind the ear. Flexible hinges provide improved durability, ideal for people who regularly take their glasses on and off.

A great fit and fashionable frames are a winning combination for Carol Bond, 72, as well. "I prefer the bridge of the nose, where it's rounded, because they sit more snug against the nose," she says. "And behind the ears, they sort of shoot off the ear rather than going around the ear and this is more comfortable."

The ComFit range has 40 different styles of frame to choose from – 20 for men, and 20 for women. "People do want comfort, but they also want them to look attractive," says Carol. **"These are really light and comfortable – and stylish too."**

New ComFit glasses, £99 including Standard varifocal lenses*

Go to [specsavers.co.uk/glasses/comfit](https://www.specsavers.co.uk/glasses/comfit) to find out more about what our customers thought and to view the full range of glasses.

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* Free varifocal lenses: Cannot be used with other offers. 1.5 Standard varifocal lenses. Scratch-resistant. Extra Options available at an additional charge. Subject to suitability.

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I forget I'm
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Stan Rodgers, 90



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HSBC bank set to close

HSBC has confirmed that it will definitely close its branch in Shepherd's Bush this autumn.

The bank is due to shut up shop for the final time on November 11 following a review.

It comes as another major blow to high-street trade in Shepherd's Bush after Morrisons announced plans to close its supermarket outlet in the W12 shopping centre.

In a statement, HSBC said footfall at its local branches had plummeted by more than 40 per cent in the last five years.

It indicated that keeping the branch open was not sustainable in the current economic climate.

HSBC is now working with the Post Office to enable customers in Shepherd's Bush to continue banking locally.

A spokesman said: "We continually review our branch network to make sure our branches are in the right locations for our customers and we have a sustainable network for the future."

"Over the past five years, we have seen an overall reduction in footfall at our branches of more than 40 per cent and sometimes we have to make the difficult decision to close branches."

"These are not decisions we take lightly and we work closely with those impacted, including customers, to help them understand their options."

"We understand branch closures may cause concern for some of our customers. We have put in place a number of measures to help, including a partnership with the Post Office so our customers can still carry out their day-to-day banking."

The announcement comes only a week after supermarket chain Morrisons unveiled proposals to close its local store, sparking fears for up to 170 jobs in the area. Bosses have launched a consultation but have set out their intention to axe the branch.

Hammersmith MP Andy Slaughter said Shepherd's Bush was going through turbulent times. He expressed fears for the future of local post offices.

Actress and writer Samantha Ritchie posted on Twitter a picture of long queues at the Shepherd's Bush branch and accused HSBC of abandoning W12 customers and community.

Police access

THE front counter at Shepherd's Bush police station has been temporarily reopened while renovation works are carried out at the Hammersmith facility.

Met chiefs have set out plans to upgrade the building, including a four-storey extension and expanded stables for police horses.

A 24-hours-a-day front-counter service opened at the Shepherd's Bush station on Saturday.

Senior salute

ELDERLY residents in Fulham were joined by pearly kings and queens to celebrate International Older People's Day when staff at Somer Court organised a party and singalong on October 1.

The sheltered-housing scheme in Anselm Road was opened in 1981 and features 25 flats for elderly people.



Engineers poised to begin work on the "super sewer" in Fulham clocked in at the office – after their brand new buildings were floated in by boat.

A pair of specially commissioned tug boats delivered the temporary offices to the Carnwath Road

site following a 30-mile trip up the Thames from Tilbury.

The two boats – christened Felix and Christian – will ship construction materials between the Fulham and Wandsworth Bridge sites during the six-year project.

The 25km Thames Tideway Tunnel, billed the biggest

infrastructure project the UK water industry has ever undertaken, has been designed to keep the river clean of untreated sewage.

Ben Green, Tideway's delivery manager for the tunnel's western section, said: "We are committed to using the river as much as we can to

transport construction materials for our project.

"Felix and Christian show that we mean what we say and will make a big reduction in HGV movements on London's roads linked to our work."

Tunnelling work is due to start at Carnwath Road next year.

Tanni backs new service to help wheelchair users

BY LWN REPORTER
edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

CHAMPION Paralympic athlete Tanni Grey-Thompson cut the ribbon to launch a new support service for wheelchair users in north west London.

The six-time wheelchair marathon winner was the guest of honour as health commissioners came together to celebrate improved care for Londoners with impaired mobility.

Patients will now be able to access a range of services – including basic assessments, repairs and maintenance – from five dedicated NHS locations, including the St Charles Health and Wellbeing Centre in Kensington and Chelsea.

The improvements have been carefully designed to meet the principles of the 'Wheelchair Charter' – an action plan put forward by the Wheelchair Alliance organisation.

Baroness Tanni, who won 11 Paralympic gold medals during a record-breaking ca-



Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson and Alex Cowan launch a new support service for wheelchair users

reer on the track, cut the ribbon during an event at the headquarters of service provider A/JM Healthcare in Brent last week.

She was joined by wheelchair user Alex Cowan, from Ealing, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in her mid-20s and has been unable to walk for more than 15 years.

"It is great that this time the voices of wheelchair users have not just been listened to but also acted upon," she said.

"Our views have been incorporated right from the

beginning into the procurement, mobilisation and specification of this new service."

"But this isn't the end of the story. We want to be sure that the things we have specified actually happen and we have built controls and conditions into the contract to ensure that they do."

Baroness Tanni gave a moving speech on the NHS's commitment to the principles of the Wheelchair Charter, mentioning her childhood as a wheelchair user since the age of eight, and how her father's work as an architect shaped her under-

standing of the world in terms of accessibility.

The Baroness also praised the NHS in north west London for taking wheelchair services seriously.

Dr Fiona Butler, chair of the North West London Clinical Commissioning Group, added: "The success of the redesign is in no small part because of the powerful spirit of cooperation that we have managed to foster between service users, commissioners and health and social care professionals."

"We have had invaluable input from GPs, carers, personal care assistants, clinical advisors and the independent standards body. We are especially grateful to have had the benefit of so much input from wheelchair users."

"We can see the fruits of our hard work already, with service users telling us how smooth their service user pathway is, how simple it has been to resolve any issues they raise and how attentive the service staff members have been."

More to get high-speed broadband

MORE than 6,500 extra homes and businesses in Hammersmith and Fulham will have access to high-speed broadband by the end of next year, experts have confirmed.

BT said it was on track to deliver the ambitious internet rollout plan, which will bring the borough's total number of connected properties to more than 77,000.

Openreach, BT's local network business, is 12 months into its two-year fibre-broadband expansion plan.

The investment is part of a London-wide programme to boost fibre-broadband coverage in every borough.

An Openreach spokesman said: "We are on track to achieve our target of providing fibre broadband to more than 6,500 homes and businesses by the end of 2017 in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. This will take the company's total coverage for fibre in the borough to more than 77,000."

Independent website Thinkbroadband states that the current fibre-broadband coverage for Hammersmith and Fulham is 93.7 per cent.

The rollout will increase availability to around 95 per cent of properties across the capital.

BT is spending more than £3 billion on Openreach's deployment of fibre across the UK, and the work in Hammersmith and Fulham is part of an additional £50 million that the company has earmarked for UK cities.

The spokesman said: "London as a whole is making good progress. The capital already boasts 95 per cent superfast broadband availability, meaning that nearly all business and residential premises have access to download speeds of 24Mbps and higher, should people choose to upgrade."

Andrew Campling, BT's general manager for London, said: "I'm delighted that BT is able to make a further investment in fibre broadband within Hammersmith and Fulham."

"While fibre broadband is already available to the vast majority of premises across London, we've been exploring options that will enable us to expand our coverage in the borough even further."

Mr Campling added: "Given the feedback that we've had to date, I'm confident that the residents and businesses in the additional parts of Hammersmith and Fulham where fibre broadband will now become available will be very pleased."

Street fair at harvest time

PEDAL-CAR races, food markets and street performers brought all the fun of a village fair to Hammersmith as the newly refurbished St Peter's Church hosted its third Harvestival event.

The street fair took place in Black Lion Lane, St Peter's Square and the church grounds on October 1 between 10.30am and 3pm.

A section of Black Lion Lane stretching from the Cross Keys pub to St Peter's Church was closed to make way for market stalls and a racetrack during the day.

Illegal advertising boards are taken down

MORE than a dozen giant advertising boards have been removed from the streets of Hammersmith and Fulham in a council crackdown on illegal promotions.

Several of the huge illuminated billboards were

taken down by town-hall enforcement squads following a sweep in Shepherd's Bush.

Six were removed from the side of buildings in Uxbridge Road and a further 10 in Goldhawk Road.

The latest blitz followed

the removal of six illegal hoardings from Munster Road in Fulham. Council officers took action where they found large billboards being displayed on residential properties without the proper permission.

They worked with representatives from community groups the Hammersmith Society, the Fulham Society and the Hammersmith and Fulham Historic Buildings Group to target illegal advertisers.

Elected the next City Lord Mayor



ALDERMAN Andrew Parmley, pictured, has been elected as the next Lord Mayor of the City of London.

Alderman Parmley will serve as the global ambassador for the UK-based financial and professional services industry from 11 November and he will serve a one year term.

The Lord Mayor Elect will succeed the current Lord Mayor Jeffrey Mountevans and will become the 689th Lord Mayor. He will take office after the Silent Ceremony on Friday 11 November at the Guildhall in the heart of the Square Mile, with the annual Lord Mayor's Show taking place on Saturday 12 November. The Lord Mayor's Banquet follows on Monday 14 November at the Guildhall, where the Prime Minister will speak.

The Lord Mayor Elect will act as a spokesperson for the City, leading overseas business delegations to key international markets on behalf of UK financial, professional and business services. He will meet with government representatives from around the world, alongside business leaders and policy makers. He will look to strengthen economic ties with the UK, identify new business opportunities and reassure them that the UK is a top global destination for foreign investment.

"Alderman Parmley has extensive experience in the creative industries, education and music sector where he has spent a number of years teaching, examining and composing," said a City of London spokesman.

"Born in Manchester, he will champion the Northern Powerhouse as well as wider economic regeneration. He will continue to celebrate the contribution of the UK's regions and show how they contribute to a vibrant and successful financial and professional services sector.

Alderman Andrew Parmley said: "The City of London is part of the very fabric of the capital and entire country, as well as being a world-famous institution in its own right.

"We all recognise that it is an essential part of the UK's economy: the financial and professional services sector accounts for 2.2 million jobs, 11 per cent of GDP and £66 billion in tax revenues.

"During my year in office I will strive to champion and speak up for this industry both domestically and internationally, particularly as the City faces up to the challenges and opportunities that Brexit will pose.

"However, I will also promote the Square Mile's educational and cultural offer. The City of London Corporation is proud to support a number of high-performing schools and flagship academies and we are committed to increasing the skills and employability of young people across London.

"We also have ambitious plans to build a world-class Centre for Music and relocate the Museum of London to boost the fantastic arts and culture opportunities in the Square Mile. I am immensely looking forward to representing all that the City can offer as Lord Mayor."



EU single market loss will put thousands of City jobs at risk

BY GEOFF BAKER
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THE City could lose up to 75,000 jobs when the country leaves the EU single market, according to new research.

In the worst-case scenario, international banks would lose all access to the single market, known as a hard Brexit, which would lead to a fall in revenue of between £32 billion to £38 billion and put 65,000 to 75,000 jobs at risk, a new report has calculated.

In a less drastic outcome, where the Square Mile's financial institutions retain passporting rights to sell services to the 27 EU states, the report estimates 4,000 jobs would be at risk with a £2 billion decline in revenues.

The report commissioned by TheCityUK and published by management consultancy Oliver Wyman has calculated that up to 50 per cent of EU-related activity could be at risk if Britain moves to a position post-Brexit where it does not have any regulatory equivalence and its relationship with the trading block is through World Trade Organisation rules.

There has been debate about whether Britain should push for a 'soft Brexit', where the country would maintain access to the single market but adhere to the principles of the free movement of people, or a 'hard Brexit' that would involve leaving the single market, curbing free movement and trading under WTO rules.

Prime Minister Theresa May recently said "we are not leaving the EU only to give up control of immigration again", which was taken as a strong indication of a 'hard Brexit' and was followed by the pound plummeting to a record 31-year-low against the dollar.

The financial sector is particularly concerned by passporting rights which allow financial institutions to conduct business across the continent easier through a single license rather than many.

London's status as a financial hub has been put in doubt since the country voted to leave the EU with speculation that business and financial institutions would move to other cities such as Paris or Frankfurt within the EU.

Thousands of jobs could be in jeopardy, the report calculated,

noting that the £205 billion financial sector pays about £67 billion in tax per year and employs more than one million people.

The report found that the possibility of moving business to the EU from London, or the closure of lines of business due to increased costs, could almost double the effect of Brexit.

However, CityUK suggested that if Britain was outside the European Economic Area, but maintained passporting rights through the single market on terms similar to those that British businesses already have, it would cause only a modest reduction in UK-based activity.

It predicted that revenue would fall by £2 billion, or 2 per cent of total whole and international business, 4,000 jobs would be at risk and revenue from tax would fall by less than £500 million.

Sir Hector Sants, vice chairman of Oliver Wyman and former head of the Financial Conduct Authority, said the report highlights that the impact of the UK's exit from the EU on the UK-based financial services and the jobs, income and taxes it generates will vary with how much access to the EU is retained.

He said: "It is in everyone's best interests for there to be a positive outcome to the negotiations that is mutually beneficial to the UK and the EU, causes minimum disruption to the industry and benefits customers who have come to rely on the UK as a uniquely skilled and connected ecosystem for financial services."

Meanwhile, three months after the Brexit vote, the BBC has reported that France's financial regulator, the Financial Markets Authority (AMF) is receiving a steady stream of enquiries from London-based companies about the possibilities of relocation.

"It was quiet in July and August. But since the start of September, I've been taken by surprise by the number of calls we are getting," AMF secretary-general Benoit de Jouvigny told the BBC.

"What they hate most, these businesses, is uncertainty. No-one can tell them what Brexit will look like. So more of them are looking to keep their options open by having an operation on the continent."

A charm offensive is under way

to lure from London as much financial business as possible - and to tempt back some of the tens of thousands of French expats who left to work there. The French government is part of the drive, promising tax breaks for returnees, lower company rates and

more international schools.

But the bulk of the work is being done by the financial industry itself, with teams of lobbyists now visiting London to push the advantages of moving to the French capital.

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The platinum relationship at

BY GEOFF BAKER
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GET set for another big royal wedding celebration next year as Buckingham Palace's greatest love story is revealed.

Publishers are already preparing to swamp the market with book after book on the couple, marriage guidance analysts will be lined up to opine on Woman's Hour and many a daytime show and TV producers are aiming to melt the heart of the nation by compiling as many clips as they can get of the still-happy pair for prime time documentaries presented by Dimblebys and royal biographers.

The event, to be officially celebrated on November 20, 2017, but which will be heralded much be-

fore that with a series of specials all over the BBC and ITV will be the platinum wedding anniversary of Elizabeth and Philip, in love for 70 years.

Although, as the films will doubtless tell, by the time the wedding anniversary comes around they will have been in love for 78 years, for The Queen first fell for her man when she was just the 13-year-old Princess Elizabeth, captivated by the good looks and dashing confidence of her Greek second cousin when she met him, for the third time, at the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth in July 1939.

Shortly afterwards they began to exchange letters and as early as two years after that the word was circulating that the future queen was besotted, as the social diarist Chips Channon recorded in 1941, after meeting Philip at an Athens cocktail party.

"He is extraordinarily handsome, and I recalled my afternoon's conversation with his aunt Princess Nicholas. He is to be our Prince Consort, and that is why he is serving in our Navy," the sharp-eyed Channon recorded.

Five years later, in the summer of 1946, Philip proposed and, without consulting her parents, the princess accepted.

Shortly afterwards, the proper thing was done and Philip asked King George VI for his daughter's hand in marriage. Although the King gave his permission, it was on the condition that the engagement was kept secret until after Princess Elizabeth's 21st birthday in April 1947.

But then early that year, having instructed aides to deny growing rumours of an engagement, the King and Queen took the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret away on a four-month trip to South Africa, allegedly arranged to see

"Of Lieutenant Mountbatten the public knows less because events have not brought him into the limelight. He has a British upbringing, he has close ties of relationship with the Royal Family, and he has had an excellent career in the British Navy. He has the aptitude to learn and to adapt himself to what must be an arduous social role.

"The engagement of the Heiress Presumptive cannot, of course, be treated as a purely private matter, much as our modern ways of thought would like to have it so. It is, in the nature of things, a matter of State, just as is the marriage of a reigning sovereign.

"In one sense there may be less in this to-day than there was in earlier generations when dynastic alliances were the rule and when a connection by marriage was a form of national insurance - or ambition. In the modern world dynastic alliances count for little; indeed, to the

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Now and then: HM The Queen and Prince Philip approaching their 70th wedding anniversary and in their early years together

if separation would cool her passion.

But the absence made her heart grow fonder instead, as Elizabeth's governess Marion Crawford recorded in her memoir.

"I knew the separation would change nothing; when Lilibet gives her love, she gives it once and for all. From South Africa, she wrote to him constantly. And throughout the trip, she put Philip's photograph on her dressing table," Crawford wrote.

On July 9th, the Court Circular announced: "It is with the greatest pleasure that the King and Queen announce the betrothal of their dearly beloved daughter, the Princess Elizabeth, to Lt. Philip Mountbatten, RN, son of the late Prince Andrew and Princess Alice to which union the King has gladly given his consent."

Although The Los Angeles Times immediately commented: "Their marriage, unlike many in the long history of royal families, will be for love", the British media was more guarded in its enthusiasm.

The Guardian, for instance, did not exactly fall over itself with rejoicing at the news of Philip joining the royal family, on which it commented: "There will be general pleasure at the announcement of Princess Elizabeth's engagement to Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten. It is clearly a marriage of choice, not of arrangement. Princess Elizabeth has won a place of high affection in the hearts of the people. She is already doing the work of her station with the same skill and tact as her parents. All will wish her the full happiness that a marriage of affection can bring.

British Royal House foreign connections are now more an embarrassment than a source of strength or utility. Public opinion, from sound instincts, has welcomed the alliances that have taken place since the 1914-18 war with people of British blood and the way in which the Royal Family has become more wholly British.

"But there is another sense in which, in Princess Elizabeth's case, the public interest is especially affected. In the course of nature she may one day succeed to the throne, and it is of some moment to have assurance that her partner will fit the high place in the State that will be his.

"In modern times we are not likely to see a repetition of Queen Anne's attempt to have her 'notoriously stupid husband' made Allied Commander-in-Chief over Marlborough. But the history of the gradual increase of the Prince Consort's influence in State affairs shows how, even under the modern system, an able royal partner (whether he becomes Prince Consort

the heart of the monarchy

or not) has a place that is of great political importance. It has been said, indeed, that in less than a decade Albert had become, in effect, King of England.

"The political power of the Crown has grown less in the last century, but whether we live in a disguised republic or not, whether, as Bagehot argued, 'a Republic has insinuated itself beneath the folds of a Monarchy,' the Crown can never be constitutionally negligible.

"It is inevitable therefore that the Princess's choice should need to receive the tacit approval of the King's advisers, here and in the Commonwealth. We must assume that this has been sought and that it has been gladly given.

"There have been many royal engagements in the past, but it would be hard to find a precise parallel for that of an Heiress Presumptive and still more for her choice as partner of one who is, technically at least, a British commoner. The Privy Council, when it meets to receive the King's message, will be taking part in a unique historical event."

Like Prince Albert before him in his marriage to Victoria, Philip discovered that the engagement – sealed with a ring of three diamonds taken from a tiara of his mother's – was not without controversy.

Philip had no financial standing, was foreign-born, though a British subject who had served in the Royal Navy throughout the Second World War, and had sisters who had married German noblemen at a time when Germany was not winning many popularity contests in the UK.

The princess's governess Marion Crawford wrote: "Some of the King's advisors did not think him good enough for her. He was a prince without a home or kingdom. Some of the papers played long and loud tunes on the string of Philip's foreign origin."

But as Philip renounced his Greek and Danish

titles and converted from Greek Orthodoxy to Anglicanism, suspicions eased as the wedding day was set at Westminster Abbey.

Philip had two stag parties the night before. To the first, at The Dorchester, he somewhat generously invited the Press. The second, for just close friends, was held at The Belfry Club.

On the morning of his wedding, Philip showed remarkable strength by choosing that traditionally-stressful day to quit smoking, not to cut down but to quit stone dead. He has never smoked since.

Although the wedding was the first royal festivity since the end of the war, Britain was still living under rationing, to which even princesses were subject, and so, to afford her the material for her wedding dress, Elizabeth saved up her ration coupons.

Certain misery guts thought a lavish royal wedding would be an affront to a Britain left impoverished by the war and the King was counselled by one, that "any banqueting and display at your daughter's wedding will be an insult to the British people at the present time, and we would consider that you would be well advised to order a very quiet wedding in keeping with the times."

But the King took the advice with the salt that it deserved and 2,000 guests including the King and Queen of Denmark, the King and Queen of Yugoslavia, the Kings of Norway, Romania, the Shah of Iran and royals from Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Greece, Prussia and Sweden, were invited to the abbey to witness the marriage for which 10,000 telegrams of congratulations were received at Buckingham Palace – along with 2,500 wedding presents which included a piece of crocheted, cotton lace made from yarn personally spun by Mahatma Gandhi, a gold and jade necklace given by King Farouk of Egypt, a pair of Meissen chocolate pots from



On November 20, 1947, Princess Elizabeth married Prince Philip in a silk gown and 15 foot train embroidered with pearls and crystals

Pope Pius XII, a picnic case from Princess Margaret and two pairs of bed socks given by a member of the public.

As at all good weddings, there was last-minute drama; on the morning of the big day, as Princess Elizabeth was getting dressed at Buckingham Palace before leaving for Westminster Abbey for an 11.30 ceremony, her tiara snapped.

The tiara was somewhat special, having been made for Queen Mary in 1919 from re-used diamonds taken from a necklace purchased by Queen Victoria from Collingwood and Co and a wedding present for Queen Mary in 1893. In August 1936, Queen Mary gave the tiara to Queen Elizabeth from whom it was borrowed by Princess Elizabeth.

Luckily the court jeweller was standing by in case of emergency and he was rushed to his work room by a police escort. Queen Elizabeth reassured her daughter that it would be fixed in time, and, fairytale-like, it was.

It was with the attendance of eight bridesmaids - Princess Margaret, Princess Alexandra of Kent, Lady Caroline Montagu-Douglas-Scott, Lady Mary Cambridge, Lady Elizabeth Lambart, the Hon. Pamela Mountbatten, the Hon. Margaret Elphinstone and the Hon. Diana Bowes-Lyon – that the bride entered the abbey, accompanied also by two pages, Prince William of Gloucester and Prince Michael of Kent, both aged just five.

The wedding dress, designed by Norman Hartnell and worked on for four months, was stunning. It was, Hartnell revealed, inspired by the Botticelli painting "Primavera," where the central figure wears "clinging ivory silk, trailed with jasmine, smilax, syringa and small rose-like blossoms."

The fabric for the dress was woven at Winterthur Silks Limited, Dunfermline, using silk that had come from Chinese silkworms at Lullingstone Castle. It had a then-fashionable sweetheart neckline and a softly folding



full skirt and was embroidered with some 10,000 seed-pearls and thousands of white beads. Hartnell purchased the pearls from the United States and made sure that no materials were sourced from Italy or Japan, recent wartime enemies of Britain. The 15-foot train, embroidered with pearl, crystal, and appliqué duchess satin, featured a star pattern.

Carrying a bouquet of white orchids with a sprig of myrtle from the bush grown from the original myrtle in Queen Victoria's wedding bouquet, Princess Elizabeth made the long walk to her man at the altar as a Pathe News presenter commented, "this was a love match that has caught the hearts and rejoicing of a nation wearied by the aftermath of war".

And so it has been proved to be in the seven decades since. In a letter to her parents soon after the marriage, Elizabeth wrote: "I only hope that I can bring up my children in the happy atmosphere of love and fairness which Margaret and I have grown up in," adding that she and Philip "behave as though we had belonged to each other for years! Philip is an angel—he is so kind and thoughtful."

In turn, Philip remarked "Cherish Lilibet? I wonder if that word is enough to express what is in me."

He added that she was "the only thing in this world which is absolutely real to me, and my ambition is to weld the two of us into a new combined existence that will not only be able to withstand the shocks directed at us but will also have a positive existence for the good."

Expect to see and read much, much more about a remarkable marriage for a great deal of next year.



The then Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip on the day of their engagement and, inset, the engagement ring made with diamonds taken from a tiara that belonged to his mother

Help us offer a lifeline

WELCOME TO OUR CAMPAIGN

Mental health: time for action

We are delighted to be working with our fantastic charity partners at Lambeth and Southwark Mind and our sister title the *South London Press* – to launch the **Change Is Possible** campaign this week.

Mental health is a subject that is often overlooked or misunderstood by the media. This needs to change so that we make sure everyone who has experience of mental health problems is treated fairly, positively and with respect.

With your support, we can take huge strides towards overcoming these hurdles and play our part in changing the lives of thousands of Londoners.

At *London Weekly News* we are always up for the fight and we are proud to say we have a fantastic team full of enthusiasm for this new campaign.

Over the coming weeks and months we will all be working flat out to make sure we hit the ground running and that **Change Is Possible** is a huge success.

However small the contribution, it could make a huge difference to the lives of vulnerable people. People who we may walk past in the street and never realise how badly they are suffering. People who may not even realise themselves. And, sadly, people who feel they cannot seek help when they need it most.

Just £2,000 could fund a peer support group at Lambeth and Southwark Mind for three months, while £5,000 would enable five people to access psychotherapy treatment for an entire year.

Larger sums could help the charity to take on extra staff and even move into a new fit-for-purpose home in the heart of the community.

The *South London Press* has always been a brave, campaigning local newspaper with a fantastic history of championing worthy causes in its communities. The *London Weekly News* series of titles are proud to continue that tradition – and we hope all our readers will stand with us once again.

Philip Evans
Hannah Walker

Directors, Capital Media Newspapers Ltd, publishers of the *South London Press* and *London Weekly News*



The *South London Press* is teaming up with Lambeth and Southwark Mind to run the **Change Is Possible** campaign. Pictured here, left to right, are chair of trustees Anna Minton, chief executive Ajay Khandelwal, head of development Ed Francis and Kindred Minds outreach worker Michelle Rodrigues

Our mission: end stigma, break down barriers



Our **Change Is Possible** campaign aims to promote and protect good mental health for everyone in south London, helping to shape a community that makes sure people with experience of mental health problems are treated fairly, positively and with respect.

South London Press and Lambeth and Southwark Mind are committed to raising awareness about the complex mental health problems that many people in our community face, and working together to expand and improve the range of support available.

We aim to put a stop to the stigma around mental health – at home, at work and at school – and to break down the barriers that prevent people from seeking help.

Campaign is up and running

FROM PAGE 1

at Lambeth and Southwark Mind to help change the lives of thousands of people in London.

"Mental health is a subject that is often overlooked or misunderstood by the media. This needs to change so that we make sure everyone who has experience of mental health problems is treated fairly, positively and with respect."

Over the coming weeks and months, the *South London Press*, *London Weekly News* and Lambeth and Southwark Mind will be working flat out to raise vital funds towards the appeal.

But we want our readers to be involved every step of the way – by donating to the campaign, taking part in their own fundraisers and sharing their own mental health stories.

Anna Minton, chair of trustees at Lambeth and Southwark Mind, said: "We are thrilled to be teaming up with the *South London Press* to launch this appeal, which provides a fantastic platform to support our vital work in Lambeth and Southwark."

"For many people living with mental health challenges, life can be a constant struggle. But help is available – and change is possible."



Lambeth and Southwark Mind chief executive Ajay Khandelwal, centre, lined up at the Royal Parks Half Marathon on Sunday with *London Weekly News* reporter Jack Dixon, right, and fellow fundraiser Jane Hayes Greenwood, left, as the starting gun is fired in our **Change Is Possible** mental health fundraising and awareness campaign

to thousands in crisis

The race to reach our ambitious fundraising targets got going at the weekend with a dedicated team of *Change Is Possible* runners taking part in the Royal Parks Half Marathon.

Passing some of central London's most famous landmarks, our inspirational athletes took on the gruelling 13.1-mile course in a bid to raise hundreds of pounds towards the appeal.

A squad of nine runners who had been putting in the hard yards in preparation for Sunday's big race, saw their preparations pay off when the half marathon got under way in Hyde Park. It was a dramatic first major fundraiser for our mental health campaign – and a great opportunity to inspire others to do their bit towards the appeal.

AJAY KHANDEIWAL

I'm the Director of Lambeth and Southwark Mind and I was really excited to be running with our great team of supporters.

Last week I had to turn another person in extreme difficulties down for our very popular free long-term psychotherapy service – because we're full. In 2017 I want to be sure to recruit more psychotherapists so that doesn't happen again. If you'd like to support our work in any way, please get in touch and I'd be delighted to meet you.



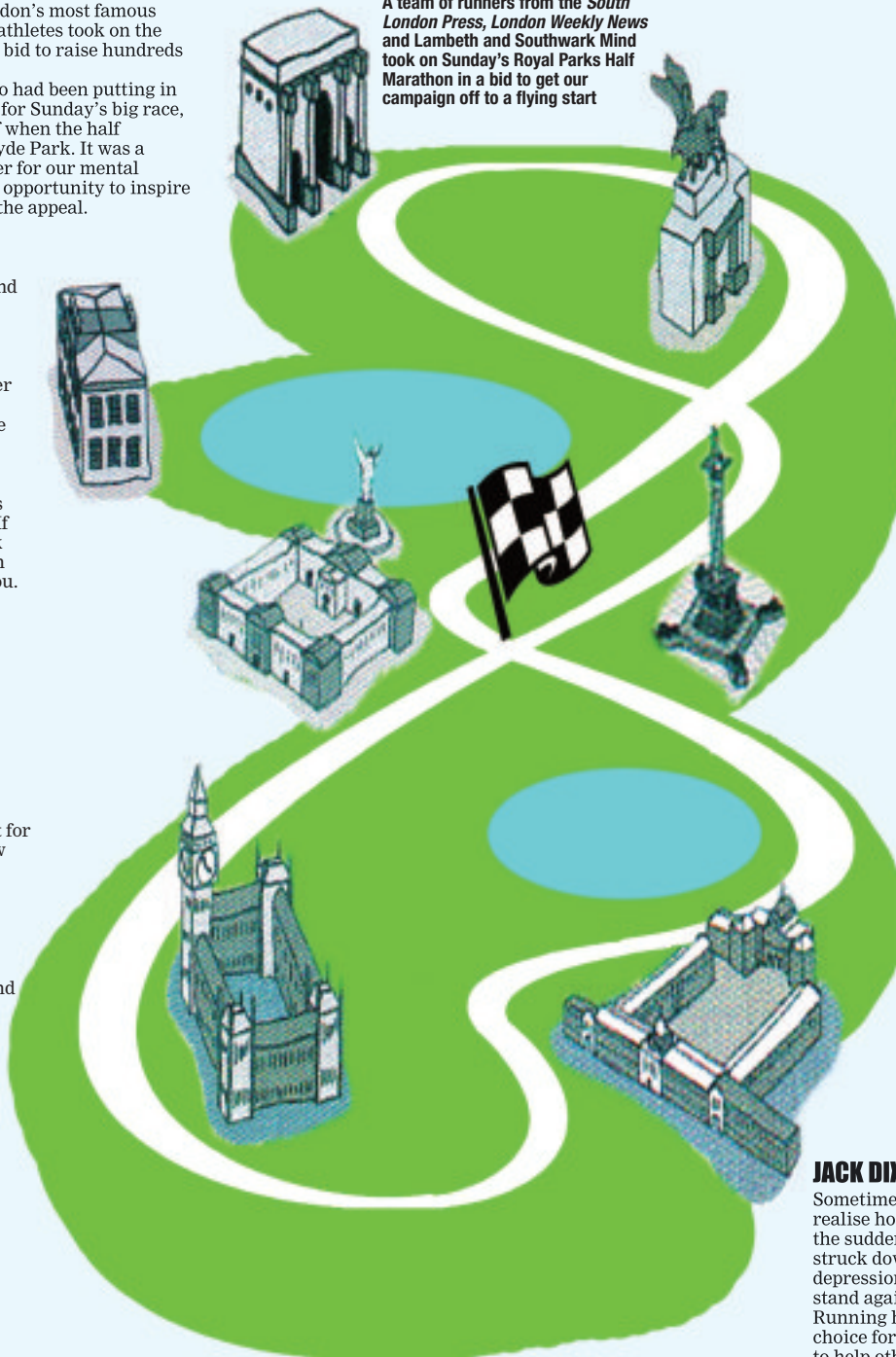
JANE HAYES GREENWOOD

Mental wellbeing is important for all of us and there are very few people who haven't been touched by these issues, whether personal or through family and friends. I was very pleased to be running the Royal Parks Half Marathon to raise money for Lambeth and Southwark Mind – a charity I admire hugely. I particularly applaud the new free psychotherapy service that was launched recently. It's something that is very necessary and hugely beneficial.



Race to raise campaign funds

A team of runners from the *South London Press*, *London Weekly News* and Lambeth and Southwark Mind took on Sunday's Royal Parks Half Marathon in a bid to get our campaign off to a flying start



JULIAN ELLERBY

Life is stressful and running helps me to manage. I'm happy to admit I'm a pretty hopeless runner but when I'm running through the woods near where I live it's pretty special.

So when Lambeth and Southwark Mind asked me to give it a go I didn't hesitate to say yes. They do awesome work providing support and guidance to local people.

I have raised them a bit of money, showed my support and done myself a bit of good at the same time. That seemed like a lot of good reasons for me to give it a go.



CHLOE McCULLOCH AND TEDDY CRANE

Running the Royal Parks Half Marathon for Mind was more than a physical challenge for me, it was something I felt emotionally compelled to do.

My sister Colette died in July, aged 35, having struggled with mental illness since her teens. Two years ago she was finally diagnosed as high-functioning autistic.

She was resident in what was supposed to be a specialist clinic when she died in a road traffic accident.

I heard that Lambeth and Southwark Mind wanted to develop a non-medical residential respite service for people in crisis. My parents and I feel strongly that people with mental health problems and their families do not currently receive adequate support from the health service or society.

Taking part in the half marathon was a way for us to raise money and awareness but it was also a way for me to deal with my grief and remember my complex and unique sister.



JACK DIXON

Sometimes it takes a crisis to make you realise how vulnerable we all are. It was the sudden shock of seeing a relative struck down by a severe case of psychotic depression that encouraged me to take a stand against the spectre of mental illness. Running has always been my method of choice for dealing with stress. Now I want to help others find their own escape route.



HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED – AND HELP OUR CAMPAIGN

If you would like to support our *Change Is Possible* campaign, there are several ways to get involved...

Share your story

Do you have personal experience of living with mental health problems? Has a friend or family member been affected? Your story could help inspire others to donate towards our campaign.

Help us fundraise

Could you support our appeal by organising a fundraising event or setting yourself a sponsored challenge? Every penny could be crucial in helping us reach our campaign targets.

Donate to our campaign

To make a donation to our appeal, you can visit the dedicated website www.givey.com/changeispossible

Alternatively, you can write to Lambeth and Southwark Mind, 4th floor, 336 Brixton Road, London, SW9 7AA. They will be pleased to help.

● For more information about getting involved with our campaign, please contact *London Weekly News* reporter Jack Dixon on 07973 565078 or email him at this address: jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk



Lambeth and Southwark Mind is a member of the Collaborative – a group of service users, GPs, providers and commissioners working in partnership to co-produce services for people experiencing mental distress across the borough

Capital nights

gigguide

Compiled by Jack Dixon



Bob Mould

Brooklyn Bowl, The O2, Greenwich
Wednesday October 12

Veteran rocker who continues to surprise and delight in equal measure after more than 30 years in the business. As the founder of seminal alternative rock band Husker Du, Mould was a pioneer from an early age. Now armed with new musicians he has been tearing up venues the world over in support of his solo record *Patch Up The Sky*. For fans of the fast and the furious.



Arab Strap

Electric Brixton, Brixton
Thursday October 13

Fondly-remembered Scottish duo headed by revered songwriter Aidan Moffat who played a key part in the mid-90s Glasgow music scene alongside the likes of Belle & Sebastian. Known for their gritty style and leftfield lyrical themes, the band were always further from the charts than their twee-pop contemporaries but were loved all the more by their legion of fans.



Seasick Steve

Wembley Arena, Wembley Park
Friday October 14

It still sounds strange to think a bearded yokel in dungarees carrying a homemade guitar will be performing at Wembley Arena this week. But Seasick Steve has now been at the top of the game for more than 10 years, commanding huge crowds at some of the world's biggest festivals and rock venues. Expect a hoe-down and a half when Steve cranks up the amp on Friday.

SOUND and vision. Two sensory concepts that fit together hand in glove – and not only to make a hit record for David Bowie.

Take away one of the essential components for live music and the experience is changed entirely.

But a new project spearheaded by the Royal National Institute of Blind People aims to show how diminishing one sense can truly enhance the other.

A litany of music stars are teaming up with the charity for the pioneering See Through Sound concert at Chelsea's Cadogan Hall this week.

Audience members will be provided with special glasses known as sim specs in order to replicate how a music fan with impaired vision might experience a gig.

"Most of us take our sight for granted," says Damon Gough, better known as acoustic balladeer Badly Drawn Boy, who is headlining the event.

"This is an opportunity to understand a perspective on sound from people with limited or no vision."

The one-off gig – the first event of its kind – is expected to create a unique atmosphere for concert-goers and artists alike, as the visual limitations heighten the sensation of sound.

Gough, 47, whose debut album *The Hour of Bewilderbeast* scooped the prestigious Mercury Prize back in 2000, is poised to top a bill packed with performers who have first-hand experience of sight loss.

Reality-TV-star-turned-singer Andy Jordan comes from a family bloodline highly vulnerable to degenerative eye disease, meaning

that one day in the future he is likely to suffer from impaired vision.

Former Liberty X vocalist and winner of *The Voice* Kevin Simm, who is poised to release his debut solo album this year, has also pledged his support after a family experience.

"The fact that sight has never been an issue for me has most definitely made me take it for granted," he said.

"It's only since my son has had to start wearing quite heavy prescription glasses that I really stopped to think how lucky I am."

Also joining the bill are comedian and rapper Doc

Brown, who recently starred in the

Ricky Gervais film *David Brent: Life On The Road*, and festival veteran Newton Faulkner.

It was the dreadlocked singer who sampled the specs at a recent performance to promote the event.

"My last performance with the RNIB has really stayed with me and I'm looking forward to being involved with another great event for a very important charity," he said.

"The experience of playing even one song with sight-impairing glasses on is one that will stay with me forever."

See Through Sound will be a unique opportunity for fans to fully absorb live music in an intimate setting, says Wanda Hamilton, the RNIB's fundraising director, who has steered the project towards its apex at Cadogan Hall.

And she believes these events

See
Through
Sound gig at
Cadogan Hall
by Jack Dixon



Andy Jordan and Newton Faulkner are on the bill for Friday's gig
Picture Steven Lawson

can also go a long way towards creating the kind of society that sees everyone equally – regardless of vision.

"It aims to both entertain and educate music fans, providing them with the opportunity to experience live music in a whole new way,"

she said. "This concert will support us in achieving our goal of making every day better for the more than two million people living with sight loss across the UK."

See Through Sound takes place at Cadogan Hall in Chelsea on Friday October 14.



Audience members at the See Through Sound launch events

'Greatest celebration' of glam hero Bolan's life

HE was the poster boy of the glam rock movement and one of the finest exponents of the rasping riff.

Ever the mischievous trickster, Marc Bolan delighted in the art of shock.

He would have been just as thrilled to see stuffy parents recoiling in horror at his on-stage antics as he would landing a number-one record.

It was a shock entirely beyond his control, however, that brought his electrifying life to an all-too-abrupt end two weeks before his 30th birthday.

September 16 1977 would go down in history as one of rock's darkest days. A superstar tragically taken away from the world at the height of his influence on the global stage.

Having lived a life so deter-



Marc Bolan

mined on the edge, it still seems so utterly unjust for Bolan to have died in a car crash in south west London not far from his Wimbledon home.

"There is so little time for us all," the singer once said in what would later be held up as a prophetic statement on the fragility of life.

"I need to be able to say what I

want quickly and to as many people as possible."

But as the 39th anniversary of the T.Rex singer's death passes, his memory – and his influence – lives on. Next year, marking four decades of life on Earth without Bolan, west London will host the biggest of all memorial bashes.

Marc Almond, of Soft Cell fame, and the former T.Rex producer Tony Visconti have joined the line-up for a very special tribute evening at the Shepherd's Bush Empire. T.Rex saxophonist Howie Casey and Bolan's former bandmate with John's Children, Andy Ellison, will also be pausing all other duties to remember the flamboyant pioneer.

Within minutes of tickets going on sale last week, the Marc Bolan

40th anniversary celebration was already being talked about as a once-in-a-lifetime event.

Organisers have pledged to stage the greatest celebration of the singer's life and work during the party, which also features top tribute act T.Rextasy.

More surprise guests are expected to be announced as the year-long countdown begins, with tickets released on September 30 – what would have been Bolan's 69th birthday.

It will surely be the perfect platform to demonstrate the longevity of the singer's cannon of hits – from *Children of the Revolution* to *Get It On* and *20th Century Boy*.

There's no doubt that Londoners will never forget their glam pop prince.

Capital nights

AN exhibition of previously unseen photographs by acclaimed music snapper Sebastian Edge will put Oxford rockers Radiohead in the spotlight this week.

Edge, who runs the North London Darkroom in Tottenham, is a leading exponent in the 19th-century photographic process known as wet collodion and famously worked with the band when they were promoting their 2011 album *The King of Limbs*.

Using sheets of treated glass in place of film in the camera, the process is far removed from modern-day methods. But it has yielded stunning results for Edge, who is set to reveal never-before-seen images of the band at London's Metropolis Studios.

The show will also feature pictures of bands including The Arthur Brothers and The Mars Volta – but it will be the ones of Radiohead that draw the biggest crowds when the exhibition opens on Thursday.

"In January 2011 I received a call from Radiohead HQ," Edge recalls. "They'd heard about a photographer who was making pictures with this early Victorian process, with a camera built from Hurricane timber, and wondered if I was still making pictures having disappeared from the music scene for a while."

"Within a few weeks I arrived at their studio and spent two separate days making the pictures for their *King of Limbs* campaign."

"After a while I think they realised these weren't just photos, they were works of hand-crafted art – and as analogue and as hands-on as it could possibly get."

Five years on, the exhibition will provide



Radiohead's Thom Yorke in one of the images by photographer Sebastian Edge

a unique opportunity for die-hard fans to own original prints of the band – including images never before released to the public.

Unseen Works by Sebastian Edge opens at the Metropolis Studios in Chiswick High Road on October 13.

Special-edition releases of Kate Bush's amazing 2014 tour

IT was one of the most talked-about musical comebacks of recent years – but when Kate Bush returned to the stage in 2014 there were thousands of adoring fans who missed out on the chance to see her in the flesh once again.

She had always shunned the spotlight, retreating to her countryside home among the Devon hills. But suddenly she was back in the picture after announcing a run of 22 shows at the Hammersmith Apollo two summers ago. Predictably, the concerts sold out in minutes.

For anyone who wasn't able to catch the incredible *Before the Dawn* run – well, thank goodness for technology, because Kate has confirmed that special-edition CD and vinyl releases will catalogue the spectacular shows for fans who missed out. The first night of the sell-out run prompted a media frenzy with one reviewer declaring the show an extraordinary mix of magical ideas, stunning visuals, attention to detail and remarkable music.

Spoken of in legendary terms for her theatrical approach to music, Kate was known to spend weeks choreographing and rehearsing dance routines for her pop videos and live shows.

And *Before the Dawn*, which featured an array of ambitious stagecraft, was no exception. It was regarded among her finest conceptual works and scooped the special Editor's Award at the London Theatre Awards that year. Nothing on the recor



Before the Dawn - Kate Bush

Kate assures us, has been re-recorded or over-dubbed. It will be every bit the real thing.

Kate Bush's live album *Before the Dawn* is released on CD and vinyl on November 25.

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Wine&dine

Spice up your life

by Kate Whiting

Indian cooking is not about chucking in the chilli and seeing how hot you can get it, it's about the layering of flavours," says Hari Ghotra as she stirs the mouthwatering deep red masala sauce for her Thari Wala Chicken.

Into her cast-iron pot, we've added onions and garlic that have been cooked until they're a dark golden brown ("Onions are so important for that depth of flavour," she says), a tin of plum tomatoes ("Not chopped, because the gravy's better"), ginger, salt, turmeric, coriander stalks and, of course, chilli.

A self-taught home cook and soon-to-be executive chef at the Soho sister restaurant of Mayfair's Michelin-starred Tamarind, Ghotra is passionate about Indian food and is on a mission to enable everyone to cook a curry from scratch for themselves.

"It's healthy, wholesome, really flavoursome and you can cook it at home quite easily," she says, when we sit down to a sumptuous feast of samosas, aloo gobi (potato cauliflower vegetable curry), cumin rice, the chicken curry and red lentil dhal.

I'm amazed that, having never chopped a chilli in my life, I now feel more confident around them and understand a lot more about Indian ingredients - particularly spices and how to use them - than I've ever done. I've also become quite nifty at folding samosas.

Ghotra, who lives in Redhill, Surrey, with her husband Jeremy and children, Neyha, 11, and Jai, 9, started out teaching Indian cooking classes at evenings and weekends when she went back to work part-time after having children.

"I had two small kids and a tiny kitchen, so I taught people in their homes, where they felt more comfortable. They'd be quite sheepish at the beginning, but the feeling I'd get when I left them was just amazing: 'Oh my God, I can do this in my own home, with my own saucepans!' They were so inspired and happy."

The 40-year-old is a shining example of how hard work and tenacity can make your dreams come true. Her parents came to Britain in the Sixties and for them, it was "never an option that food would be a career" for their daughter.

"My dad worked as a bus driver. For him, he was sending his children to university and they were going to get an education and good jobs. Food was just what you did at home. Why would you want to go out and cook if you have to do that at home anyway? Especially if you're a woman. My dad would never have wanted his daughter in that male environment."

She studied biology and worked as a microbiologist for Unilever, then took a degree in marketing and worked for Tesco, until her husband, seeing how much she enjoyed teaching her cookery classes, bought her the Hari Ghotra domain name, designed a logo and had business cards made for her one Christmas. Her website www.harighotra.co.uk, full of recipes and videos of Ghotra revealing how to make them, soon caught the attention of the Tamarind Collection and she's spent the last 18 months training at the Mayfair restaurant under chef Peter Joseph.

She's leading the way for female Indian chefs: "It's a male-dominated environment. I haven't had any bad experiences, they're so respectful, but a lot of women in Indian culture are ex-



Hari Ghotra, in her element teaching people about authentic Indian cooking. Hari is soon to become executive chef at the Soho sister restaurant of Mayfair's Tamarind

pected to run the home. Maybe more British Asian women will be going into that industry now, because it's more accepted."

Ghotra learned to love cooking and Indian food by "following my mum around the kitchen" at their home in Wolverhampton.

"Food for my parents was very important, because it would have been another thing that they left behind, they tried desperately to hold onto their culture and roots. I come from a very

working class family, so it's very basic food, authentically cooked, the way my mum had been taught by my grandma.

"It instilled a real love of ingredients in me - mum would always make me go to the garden to pick mint in the rain, or I'd make the dough for the rotis. I absolutely hated it, but every day we had to do that and my mum would make about 30 to 40 chapatis that everyone would sit and eat."

She remembers the neighbours being rude about her mum's pungent cooking.

"Every now and again, she'd get people knocking on the door saying, 'You're making the street smell, it's disgusting!' It was horrible, so she'd feel really bad. And then, a few years later, one of those ladies came to see my mum and said, 'Can you teach my daughter how to make a curry please?' So she felt very good about that."

Her kids were weaned on plain rice and lentils, as well as the usual veggie purees, and her daughter can now make all her favourite curries by herself.

And Ghotra's an advocate for home-cooked Indian food being "one of the healthiest meals you can have".

"You have your carbs, rice or roti, lentils, a veg dish, a meat or fish dish and some form of yogurt or salad or chutney, so there's a lot of freshness in there and they represent all of those key food groups. It's not about loading up your plate, it's about having little portions of each. I'm really anti fad foods, it drives me insane. Just control the volume and cut out rubbish."

Ghotra's Thari Wala Chicken



MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK



New season vegetable casserole

THIS makes a great vegetarian starter or main, and will go well with many meals as a side dish. You can put whatever young vegetables you wish into this, but don't go too crazy; more than about five and it can become a bit of a dog's dinner.

Ingredients

For the sauce

2 medium shallots, peeled and finely chopped
120g unsalted butter, diced and chilled
120ml white wine
150ml vegetable stock
3tbs olive oil
1tbs chopped chervil
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

To serve

30-40g podded weight of peas
30-40g podded weight of broad beans
12 baby or chantenay carrots, peeled
80-100g seasonal mushrooms, such as morel, girolle or St George's - or you could mix in other seasonal veg such as baby turnips, sugar snaps or mangetout

Method

To make the sauce, gently cook the shallot using a knob of the butter in a medium saucepan for a minute, without colouring, then add the white wine and simmer until it's almost evaporated. Add the vegetable stock and simmer until it's reduced by two-thirds. Remove from the heat and whisk in the butter then the oil to emulsify the sauce.

Meanwhile, lightly cook all the vegetables. To serve, mix the vegetables with the sauce, stir in the chopped chervil and season to taste. Serve immediately.



New season vegetable casserole

Talk of the town

A NEW musical depicting life as a Londoner is about to be premiered in the city and, although it's being performed in Finsbury Park, it has a very South London connection, writes *Nicky Sweetland*.

Entitled *This Little Life of Mine* the show is by Wimbledon residents Michael Yale (books and lyrics) and Charlie Round-Turner (music) and stars local singing teacher Kate Batter and James Robinson, who also lives in the area.

The musical drama has been likened to the hit television show *Friends* and examines the lives of modern Londoners, with the pressure of high expectation and the worry of underachieving.

I was lucky enough to be invited to the launch party, where I chatted to the cast and creative team about the show.

Kate Batter plays Izzy, a young woman who is becoming increasingly disillusioned with city life.

Kate said: "It is a comedy but there are moments that will bring you right back down to earth as well. It's like real life and there's a lovely balance."

"Izzy is in her early 30s. She's an aspiring film editor and she's not quite in the job that she'd like to be in. She's got this wonderful boyfriend who will do anything for her, but she can't help but want just a little more and her obsession to have a baby becomes her life."

"It's a journey that a lot of young female Londoners are going through and I think it's something that everyone can understand."



The cast of *This Little Life of Mine*, Kate Batter, Greg Barnett, Caroline Deverill and James Robinson, entertain the guests at their launch party

Kate's co-star James Robinson adds: "It's trying to key into modern day living, so it's contemporary, but it also has a kind of timeless feel about it as well."

Caroline Deverill and Greg Barnett join the pair and play multiple roles including neighbours, baristas and friends. If the snapshot we were treated to at the launch is anything to go by, the show is set to be a heart-warming and hilarious evening out.

This Little Life of Mine will attempt to speak with honesty and candour to a generation

spoiled for choice, and challenged by it too. It explores contemporary themes, from dating to infertility to getting on the property ladder.

Writer, Michael Yale said: "I'd been working on a lot of classic theatre for a time and I knew that the project I wanted to do would be something contemporary. To be honest, it kind of wrote itself."

Other shows I've written have been set in Belle Époque France or the trenches of World War I and this is set in modern day London

without those big backdrops, but the stories are still very poignant, dramatic, funny and sad. It's what was going on around me."

Michael said he got many of the ideas for the book and the characters from overheard conversations people that he knew.

"It's very much about South London because we've lived in Wimbledon for a while and before that we lived around Battersea and Wandsworth so it's very much about south of the river," he said.

It's a real feel good comedy and I think we need that

I asked Kate to sell it to me and she replied: "You've got to make that tube journey up to North London because it's really got something for everything. It will make you laugh, make you cry and I can guarantee you'll come out humming some of the tunes. It's a real feel good comedy and I think we need that."

The premiere of *This Little Life of Mine* will run at the Park Theatre for a limited season until October 29. Visit the website www.park-theatre.co.uk/whats-on.

Favourites' farewell tango

Last Tango ★★★

TELEVISION audiences are once again being drawn into the virtual ballroom as *Strictly Come Dancing* returns to our screens. More enthusiastic fans can enjoy two of the show's stars live in the West End over the next few weeks, as Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace bring their latest full length theatrical piece to the Phoenix Theatre writes *Nicky Sweetland*.

Following previously successful London stage forays, with *Dance 'til Dawn* and *Midnight Tango*, the pair have, this time, taken a heartwarming story of lost love to set alongside their dazzling dance set pieces as they bid farewell with their final theatre show.

The *Last Tango* follows George as he delves into an attic full of memories. As he reminisces, poignant moments are brought to life through sparkling and intricate choreography.

For regular musical theatre aficionados, the show lacks any deep narrative. This is simply a dance show and everything else has been added is a mere afterthought.

That said, the dancing is simply breathtaking with the final tango worthy of the ticket price alone; a post war reunion number, which exudes lustful energy and shows just why the pairing have become such hugely successful stars in their own right after leaving the television phenomenon.

Vincent and Flavia: The *Last Tango* continues at the Phoenix Theatre until December 3
www.thelasttangotour.co.uk



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Talk of the town



David Fynn with some of the young actors in *School of Rock*

ANDREW Lloyd Webber brings the hugely anticipated, *School of Rock – The Musical*, to the New London Theatre next month following an acclaimed Broadway run, writes *Nicky Sweetland*.

The show, based on the 2003 film, will star comedian David Fynn as the dropout musician Dewey Finn - the role made famous by Jack Black - alongside three troupes of young performers.

David Fynn is perhaps best known for his television work, which includes *The Inbetweeners*, *Sherlock* and *Game of Thrones*. On stage he has appeared at the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre and at the Donmar Warehouse.

He is joined by Florence Andrews as Rosalie Mullins, Oliver Jackson as Ned Schneeby and Preeya Kalidas as Patty Di Marco.

David took some time out of rehearsals to answer our Ten-minute Talk of the Town questions.

What's it like being cast as the lead in one of the most hotly anticipated shows in the West End this year? Do you feel a sense of expectation or pressure?

It's an amazing opportunity and obviously it's absolute bucket list, dream-land stuff. I think the only pressure comes from myself. The creative team are of the highest calibre and are absolute collaborators so I feel in safe hands and the pressure is eased by that.

Although you have lots of stage credits, you have also worked extensively in television. How do the two differ and which do you prefer?

Whenever I do one I always miss the other. I believe the kids call that FOMO (fear of missing out). They each have their benefits and downsides but nothing quite matches the

rush of live theatre.

For those who don't know about *School of Rock*, tell us a bit about the story and the character you play.

School of Rock is the story of a group of high achieving children in the high pressure environment of an elite prep school. Their world is quite literally rocked when an ageing, failing musician enters their world and gives them a new lease of life through music.

Have you seen the musical on Broadway?

Yes, I saw it on Broadway. It was phenomenal. The children and Alex Brightman were amazing and they set the bar super high!

How does the stage musical compare to the film?

I think the brilliance of the musical is the way they delve into the relationship between the children and parents more. It ultimately gives it added heart and makes the jeopardy more palpable.

Is the kind of music Dewey likes the style you would choose to listen to?

I definitely listen to his type of music. My taste may be more eclectic and not quite so rock-centric, but I love the genre.

The old saying is 'Never work with children or animals' and you are going to be working with a lot of children. Is that a bit daunting, particularly when there are three different teams?

The only daunting thing about working with these particular children is how talented they are.

When you see a ten-year-old play their instruments the way these kids do, it's almost surreal; like it shouldn't really be happening. Also working with them gives me a bit of licence to be a giant baby, which is fun.

David Fynn-Dewey Finn, sounds like you were made for the role, what will you bring to the character to make him your own?

Biscuits!

Are you an accomplished musician, or have you had to learn how to play the guitar for the role?

I am in no way accomplished. I learned three chords when I was 15 to impress girls. It didn't work in any way. I've been learning since finding out I got the role so hopefully I'll be up to scratch. But if you ask me to play anything outside the show my head will explode.

Lots of the work you have performed previously has gained a cult following. Do you think *School of Rock* will achieve a cult status?

I hope so. It definitely has the potential to. The music and book are certainly good enough.

Having lived in LA, do you miss the sunshine, or are you pleased to be back in London?

I've been dying to get home and do theatre for a while so I'm extremely happy to be here. I don't miss the sun just yet, but ask me again in January when we have 17 minutes of daylight! **Sell it to us. Why should we come and see *School of Rock - The Musical*?**

It will be a totally unique night at the theatre. The team behind it are the best at what they do in the world. Also if you don't enjoy seeing a 9-year-old girl who is four feet tall play a bass bigger than her then you're dead inside.

School of Rock – The Musical begins preview on October 24, with the official opening night on November 14

www.SchoolOfRockTheMusical.co.uk

Wicked celebration

Wicked ★★★★★

THE musical phenomenon that is *Wicked* celebrated a decade in the West End, last week with a glittering gala birthday performance.

Former cast members, celebrities and fans joined the show's composer, Steven Schwartz for the special performance, which featured a new cast to see the show through its historic milestone.

The multi award-winning stage spectacular, which charts the life and times of the Wicked Witch of the West, has become one of the biggest musicals in the world with an estimated 50 million people making the journey into the Land of Oz.

Wicked is based on the novel by Gregory Maguire and features characters from the magical world created by L. Frank Baum in his children's story, *The Wizard of Oz*.

The story follows the green skinned Wicked Witch of the West (called Elphaba, devised from the phonetics of Baum's initials L.F.B.), from her first day at university up until her untimely demise at the hands of the Kansas farm girl Dorothy. Along the way, we find she is not quite the cackling monster we all remember from the 1939 film, as she desperately seeks approval from both her classmates and from the charismatic political leader, in the shape of the Wizard.

The 10th anniversary cast sees Rachel Tucker triumphantly

return to the coveted leading role of the plucky good witch Glinda and their connection is wonderfully warm.

Mark Curry's Wizard is poetically cheeky and he resonates a joyful energy whenever on stage. Oliver Saville cuts a strapping figure as Fieryo and Anita Dobson makes an attractive addition to the cast as an almost doll-like Madame Morrible.

Wicked is the show that has everything from a fantastic story, magical staging, a wonderful score and now another exceptional cast.



I could happily go every week and will look forward to another ten years of enjoying this fabulous production.

Wicked is running at the Apollo, Victoria. If you would like any further details you can visit the website www.wickedthemusical.co.uk

Talk of the town



Rob Ostlere, left, with the cast of *Confessional*

FORMER *Holby City* Star Rob Ostlere takes to the stage at Southwark Playhouse this week, for what promises to be a fresh way to experience one of Tennessee Williams' classic works, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

Entitled *Confessional* the one act play was written after the author's more notable works, *A Street Car Named Desire* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and has never before been staged in London. The play transfers to the south London theatre after a critically acclaimed run at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2015.

The semi immersive theatrical experience invites audiences to share a drink with a group of drunken regulars and watch their lives implode. Tramp's production sets out to reimagine Tennessee Williams' play.

Rob Ostlere said: "It's originally set in America but we're doing it in British accents and it's set in a tacky pub in Southend in 2016, so the script is the same but hopefully the audience will be hearing Tennessee Williams like they have never heard him before."

Confessional is the first play in which Williams included an openly gay character and it is therefore seen as semi-biographical.

The play centres on the regulars in Monk's bar over the course of a furious and fun evening.

"It follows a group of drunken locals and centres on a character called Leona who has just found out her boyfriend cheated on her with her best friend. Then two gay strangers

We want the audience to feel like they're in their local for the evening

enter this very homophobic pub and all hell breaks loose," said Rob.

Ostlere is best known for playing Arthur Digby in the BBC1 medical drama *Holby City*. After almost three and a half years on the programme, he bowed out following his character's untimely and tragic death from stomach cancer.

The popular actor is looking forward to getting back on the stage and said: "It's been a completely different way of working, but that's what I wanted after leaving *Holby*."

The production at Southwark Playhouse hopes to attract patrons who may not ordinarily visit the theatre, as the performance will have an altogether more relaxed take on the etiquette that is usually expected. In fact, audience members will be encouraged to wander around and grab a drink whenever they wish.

Rob said: "We want them to feel like they're in their local for the evening with these really wild fun crazy and exciting characters".

Confessional is previewing at Southwark Playhouse. If you would like any further details, you can visit the website southwark-playhouse.co.uk/show/confessional/

Outstanding stars of the future

Pigeon English ★★★★★

STARS of the future were on display this week, as the National Youth Theatre took to the West End to present an enlightening and deeply harrowing account of a young boy's life, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

Gbolahan Obisesan's adaptation of *Pigeon English*, the Man Booker-shortlisted novel of 2011 by Stephen Kelman, was one of three productions played in rep by the young actors, with the gripping nature of the material matched by some outstanding performances



Seraphina Beh in the National Youth Theatre's production of *Pigeon English*

from the hugely talented cast.

The story follows Harri, a 10-year-old Ghanaian immigrant as he attempts to solve a mystery in a harsh and unforgiving urban wasteland. As he is drawn further into the seedy underworld, the utterly adorable young lad with a dazzling smile and thoroughly engaging demeanor leads the audience on a journey of discovery and ultimately tragedy.

Seraphina Beh played the lovable Harri with a perfect mixture of cheek and charm. The utterly captivating young actress, who made a convincing pre-adolescent boy, gave a particularly powerful performance in the final scenes, showing a maturity in the skill of characterisation which belied her years.

Felix Mackenzie-Barrow as Harri's geeky best mate and Joshua Lyster-Downer as the brooding and threatening Julius, were also impressive and Anna Niland's direction was inspirational, capturing the very essence of life at the bottom of the social pile.

Matt Smith and Rosamund Pike are among the alumni of the National Theatre, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. If this young cast is anything to go by, the establishment will continue to promote the stars of stage and screen for many years to come.

John Parnham's Children's Fun Fair in partnership with **hcf** sponsoring the Pensioners Christmas Lunch

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Classified

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Public Notices

Article 13 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 and Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990

NOTICE OF APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION AND LISTED BUILDING CONSENT

Proposed development at Dial Walk, off Bayswater Road on land adjacent to Car Park, 1-3 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8.

We give notice that Mr and Mrs J. Hunt are applying to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council for planning permission and listed building consent to temporarily dismantle a pillar and partial boundary wall and erect a temporary pillar and widened gated access to facilitate construction access along Dial Walk, and reconstruct the wall and gate pillar.

Any owner* of the land who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council at:

Executive Director
Planning and Borough Development
Room 325
Kensington Town Hall
Hornton Street
London
W8 7NX

by **Friday 4 November 2016**

Signed **Gerald Eve LLP** on behalf of **Mr and Mrs J. Hunt**
Date: 11 October 2016

* "owner" means a person having a freehold interest or a leasehold interest the unexpired term of which is not less than seven years.

Statement of owners' rights

The grant of planning permission does not affect owners' rights to retain or dispose of their property, unless there is some provision to the contrary in an agreement or in a lease.

Public Notices

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE A3220 GLA ROAD AND GLA SIDE ROADS (EARLS COURT ROAD, ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA) (20 MPH SPEED LIMIT) EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC ORDER 2016

- Transport for London hereby gives notice that on 7th October 2016 it made the above named Experimental Order under sections 9, 10(2) and 83 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Order will come into force on 21st October 2016 and may remain in force for up to 18 months.
- The road affected by this Order is the A3220 Earl's Court Road and all GLA Side Roads - Red Route returns of these roads in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.
- The general nature and effect of the Order is to introduce a 20 MPH speed limit on the above roads where Transport for London is the traffic authority (as indicated by single or double red line markings) experimentally to assess the potential benefits in terms of road safety, promoting active modes of travel, and to enhance the local area to encourage people to visit and spend time there.
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- A copy of the Order, a statement of Transport for London's reasons for the proposals and for proceeding by way of experiment, a map indicating the location and effect of the Order and copies of any Orders revoked, suspended or varied by the Order can be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of:
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Streets Traffic Order Team
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Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road
London, SE1 8NJ
 - Transportation and Highways
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Room 114
Council Offices
37 Pembroke Road
London W8 6PW
- The documents referred to in paragraph 6 will be available for inspection during the period within which objection can be made in accordance with paragraph 5 above.
- Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or of any of its provisions on the grounds that they are not within the relevant powers conferred by the Act or that any requirement of the Act has not been complied with, that person may, within six weeks from the date on which the Orders are made, make application for the purpose to the High Court.

Dated this 11th October 2016

Mufu Durowoju

Network Impact Management Team Manager
Road Space Management - Operations, Transport for London
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON



TRANSPORT FOR LONDON

HON ANGAD PAUL (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of PENTHOUSE FLAT, AMBIKA HOUSE 9A, LONDON W1B 1PR, who died on 08/11/2015, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 12/12/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Michelle Paul, PENTHOUSE FLAT, AMBIKA HOUSE 9A, LONDON W1B 1PR.

Licensing Act 2003 Notice of Application for a Premises Licence

An application has been made by Blanc Brasseries Ltd for a new Premises Licence for premises to be known as Brasserie Blanc, (Unit 14, Building G) Goldhurst House Fulham Reach, Distillery Wharf, Parr's Way, Fulham, London W6 9GD. The application has been made to permit the supply of alcohol from 10.00 to 23.30 Monday to Saturday and until 22.30 on Sunday. Late night refreshment will also be supplied until the same terminal hours.

Full details of the application may be inspected by appointment only by contacting The Licensing Team, PO Box 66532, London W8 9GL or licensing@tbn.gov.uk

Representations should be made in writing to the Licensing Authority at the above address no later than 28th October 2016.

All representations must be made in writing. It is an offence under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 for anyone to recklessly or knowingly make a false statement in connection with a licensing application. The maximum fine on conviction is £5,000.

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ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1)

(ROWAN ROAD)

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- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate crane operations to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Rowan Road between its junctions with Bute Gardens and Hammersmith Road.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Hammersmith Road, Brook Green and Luxembourg Gardens.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order will come into operation on the 15th October 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works are expected to commence on Saturday 15th October 2016 and last for 23 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 4th day of October 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle

Chief Transport Planner

Transport and Highways

Local Planning Applications London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham



PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS)

ACT 1990

I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA
26 Ashchurch Park Villas
London W12 9SP

2016/04310/FUL
Demolition and re-building of the front boundary wall.

58 Milson Road London
2016/04313/FUL

Installation of 5no pavement lights over the basement vaults fronting Milson Road elevation; installation of a new entrance door with a facade lamp above to replace the existing door at the corner elevation fronting both Milson Road and Porten Road elevation.

Outside 131-166 Lancaster Court Darian Road London
2016/04260/FUL

Installation of 5no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 5no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.

Opposite North Lodge Hammersmith Cemetery Margravine Gardens London
2016/04261/FUL

Installation of 4no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 4no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.

Outside 25s Blythe Road London
W14 0PD 2016/04262/FUL

Installation of 3no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 3no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.

Opposite 26 - 28 Paddenswick Road London
2016/04263/FUL
Installation of 4no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 4no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.

Outside 234 Hammersmith Grove And 1-8 Grove Mansions London
2016/04264/FUL

Installation of 4no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 4no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.

Outside Monk Court A Wormholt Road London
W12 0NJ 2016/04265/FUL

Installation of 4no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 4no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.

Outside 32 Stamford Brook Road London W6 0XL
2016/04266/FUL

Installation of 3no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 3no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.

Opposite 19-23 Sawley Road London
2016/04267/FUL
Installation of 4no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 4no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.

Adjacent To 59A Erconwald Street London
2016/04277/FUL
Installation of 2no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 2no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.

Outside Harbour Club Watermeadow Lane London
SW6 2RW 2016/04253/FUL
Installation of 3no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 3no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.

68 Shepherd's Bush Road London W6 7PH
2016/03983/FUL

Change of use of existing basement from ancillary storage use to Estate Agents at ground floor level above to residential use (Class C3) as part of existing annex flat to the rear; excavation of part of the rear garden to form a lightwell and reinstatement of pavement lights over existing vaults to the front, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.

Flat Ground Floor 22 Coniger Road London SW6 3TA
2016/04122/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension to the side and rear of the existing back addition; and excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.

Outside 139 - 145 Bagley's Lane London SW6 2FW
2016/04252/FUL

Installation of 3no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 3no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.

15 Irving Road London
W14 0JF 2016/04178/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at roof level; formation of a roof terrace at second floor level to the rear elevation; erection of rear extensions at ground and first floor level; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement; associated landscaping.

12A Godolphin Road London
W12 8JE 2016/03904/FUL

Replacement of all existing windows to lower and ground floor levels.

Eightells 99 Fulham High Street London SW6 3JS
2016/04237/FUL

Retention of use of part of the pavement as an outside seating area comprising 2 fixed tables and chairs and 2 loose tables and chairs.

84 Brackenbury Road London
W6 0BD 2016/04233/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height by 300mm.

8 Heathstan Road London
W12 0RA 2016/04113/FUL

Erection of a single storey outbuilding in the side garden.

135 Talgarth Road London
W14 9DA 2016/04042/FUL

Retention of double glazing to north elevation facing studio window.

48 Lysia Street London
SW6 6NG 2016/04215/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of rear extensions at ground, first and second floor level; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement.

648 King's Road London
SW6 2DU 2016/04296/ADV

Display of 1no internally illuminated fascia sign fronting Britannia Road and New King's Road elevations, and 2no internally illuminated fascia sign Fronting Waterford Road elevation.

110 Harbord Street London
SW6 6PH 2016/04161/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height by 200mm; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of a two storey rear extension at ground and first floor level; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the extended back addition; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement.

392 Lillie Road London
SW6 7PE 2016/03852/FUL

Change of use of the basement and ground floor from a shop (Class A1) to a Trichology Clinic (Class D1), providing the non-surgical treatment of hair loss and scalp conditions.

14 Halford Road London
SW6 1JT 2016/03922/FUL

Conversion of an existing three storey dwelling house into 1no. one bedroom self-contained flat at ground floor level and 1no. two bedroom self-contained maisonette at first and second floor levels; erection of a front roof extension, including the installation of 2no. sets of French doors to replace 2no. existing windows; raising of the front parapet wall a roof level in connection with the formation of a roof terrace.

91 Chesson Road London
W14 9QS 2016/04094/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at second floor level on top of the existing back addition; erection of a rear extension at lower ground floor level to the side of the existing back addition; and excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of a new basement.

Suite 5 Burlington Lodge Studios 48 Rigault Road London SW6 4JJ
2016/03040/FUL

Excavation of front garden and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the basement.

Suite 5 Burlington Lodge Studios 48 Rigault Road London SW6 4JJ
2016/03754/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at roof level; replacement of windows and entrance door to front elevation; excavation of front garden to form lightwell, in connection with the enlargement of the basement.

88 Peterborough Road London
SW6 3HH 2016/04251/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at roof level to provide 2 x 2 bedroom self-contained flats.

34 Stokenchurch Street London SW6 3TR
2016/04294/FUL

Replace existing single glazed timber window to front elevation at ground floor level with new double glazed timber window.

212 New King's Road London
SW6 4NZ 2016/00604/FUL

Change of use of part of the ground floor from retail to use as a Class A1 coffee shop; erection of three retractable awnings to the front elevation; use of the pavement for ten tables and 30 chairs.

212 New King's Road London
SW6 4NZ 2016/00605/ADV

Display of an internally illuminated fascia sign; display of a non-illuminated fascia sign.

18 - 22 Vanston Place London
SW6 1AX 2016/04318/VAR

Variation of condition 1 of planning permission ref: 2016/01982/FUL granted 28th June 2016 to allow the use of the pavement as an outside seating area comprising of 6 tables and 20 chairs for a temporary period until 28th November 2017.

Maisonette A Basement And Ground Floor 71 Waldemar Avenue London SW6 5LS
2016/04229/FUL

Conversion of existing garage to provide additional accommodation ancillary to the existing flat; installation of new entrance door and steps to front elevation; installation of 3 new low level windows to the side elevation at ground floor level.

Outside Of 1 Waldo Road London
2016/04278/FUL

Installation of 3no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 3no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays.

14 Foxglove Street London
W12 0QD 2016/04210/FUL

Erection of a part one part two storey rear extension at ground and first floor level; erection of a single storey extension to the side of the main building; installation of 2no. rooflights in the front roof slope; and installation of 2no. rooflights in the rear roof slope.

16 Ravenscourt Gardens London W6 0TU
2016/04216/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; and erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition.

238 - 246 King Street And 3 Ravenscourt Avenue London
W6 0RF 2016/04283/VAR

Minor material amendment to planning permission ref: 2015/03157/FUL granted 28th August 2015 for the 'Erection of a part four, part five storey infill extension to the western building facade fronting Ravenscourt Avenue and linkage with the existing flank staircase to 238 - 246 King Street

to create five self-contained units (3 x 1 bedroom and 2 x 2 bedroom flats); erection of a rear extension to the northern building elevation at first floor level; and demolition and reconstruction of existing basement commercial unit; formation of new window openings; and external alterations'. Amendments include reducing the number of the approved five self-contained units (3 x 1 bedroom and 2 x 2 bedroom flats) to four self-contained units (1 x 1 bedroom and 3 x 2 bedroom flats) and removal of the proposed linkage with the existing flank staircase to 238 - 246 King Street.

SonyEricsson House 202 Hammersmith Road London W6 7D.
2016/04046/FUL

Replacement of existing ground floor main entrance doors to the front elevation with frameless glass doors; replacement of 2no. existing external lights either side of the main entrance doors with new up and down wall light fittings; installation of 6no. aluminium PPC louvered grilles to the rear elevation (2no. at lower ground floor level, 2no. at ground floor level and 2no. at first floor level); installation of new cycle racks for 24no. bicycles to the rear courtyard; installation of timber decking and planting to the front lightwell area to create a front garden; replacement of existing signage above the main entrance doors to the front elevation with a new non-illuminated entrance signage; and planting of a mature False Acacia tree by the front entrance to match the adjacent tree.

9 Grove Mews London W6 7HS
2016/03995/FUL

Demolition and rebuilding of the front facade of No: 9 Grove Mews.

69 Waldo Road London
NW10 6AU 2016/04189/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension, involving an increase in the ridge height; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition.

Bus Shelter Outside Car Park On Wood Lane London
2016/02191/ADV

Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370m (height) x 1.340m (width) x 0.350m (depth) (Amended Site Address).

Land North Of Westfield Shopping Centre Ariel Way London
016/04020/RES

Submission of reserved matters relating to layout, scale, appearance, access and landscaping for Plot K, comprising the erection of a part 10, part 16 storey building to provide 89 residential units (33 x 1bed, 45 x 2 bed, 11 x 3 bed) pursuant to outline planning application 2016/03944/VAR.

67 Wendell Road London
W12 9SB 2016/04297/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 2no. rooflights in the front roof slope; installation of a new gable window to the front elevation; and replacement of all existing windows to the front and rear elevations with double glazed windows to match existing.

12 Raynham Road London
W6 0HY 2016/03831/FUL

Replacement of existing softwood single glazed windows to the front and rear elevations with double glazed timber windows to match existing; and replacement of a door to the side elevation of the back addition at ground floor level with a secure by design door.

1 St Peter's Villas London
W6 9BQ 2016/03959/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition, including aluminium framed double-glazed bifold doors to the rear elevation, with an aluminium framed openable rooflight to the roof of rear extension, and a double-glazed structural glass roof over the entire length of the side extension; erection of a single storey conservatory building to the rear of the rear garden, including an aluminium framed openable rooflight and with walls and glazed openings to match with main house and extension; installation of a double-glazed window to replace existing to the front elevation at lower ground floor level; and rebuilding of the west side garden wall shared with No.2 St Peter's Villas with brickwork to match existing to a height of 2 metres.

600 King's Road London
SW6 2YW 2016/04286/ADV

Display of an externally illuminated fascia sign and an externally illuminated projecting sign to the front elevation.

113 Munster Road London
SW6 6DH 2016/04293/FUL

Redevelopment of the site comprising the erection of part two, part three storey plus-basement building to provide 2 x 2 bedroom and 3 x 1 bedroom self-contained flats with roof terraces at first and second floor level, 1 x commercial unit within use class A1/A2 and 1 x commercial unit within use class A1/A3 over part of the basement and ground floor level; associated landscaping; removal of existing advertisement hoardings and boundary walls, erection of new brick walls with railings on top and pedestrian access gates fronting Colehill Lane elevation.

17 Sulgrave Road London
W6 7RD 2016/04190/FUL

Excavation of the rear garden to form a lightwell in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; erection of an external staircase from basement to garden level at the rear of the property.

34 Colehill Lane London
SW6 5EG 2016/04194/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roof slope and 1no rooflight over the main flat roof level.

41 Basute Road London
SW6 4BL 2016/04198/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; installation of a new dormer window to replace the existing window in the rear roof slope; installation of 1no rooflight over the main flat roof at roof level and 2no rooflights in the front roof slope to replace the existing rooflights; installation of new critical doors to replace the existing folding doors at ground floor level to the rear elevation; excavation of the rear and part of the front garden to form a rear lightwell, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement and front lightwell (Retrospective).

25 Emlyn Road London
W12 9TD 2016/04202/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension including the formation of a hip to gable roof extension.

421 North End Road London
SW6 1NY 2016/03745/FUL

Formation of a plant enclosure to rear elevation at first floor level above the existing garage; installation of two louver vents to replace existing vents at first floor level and installation of two new larger louvers to rear elevation at ground floor level.

100 Bronsart Road London
SW6 6AB 2016/04276/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; alterations to the roof of back addition to incorporate a flat roof; installation of 2 no windows to replace 1 no window at first floor level to the rear elevation.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK) FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT

135 Talgarth Road London
W14 9DA 2016/04107/LBC

Retention of double glazing to north elevation facing studio window.

1 St Peter's Villas London
W6 9BQ 2016/03960/LBC

Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition, including aluminium framed double-glazed bifold doors to the rear elevation, with an aluminium framed openable rooflight to the roof of rear extension, and a double-glazed structural glass roof over the entire length of the side extension; erection of a single storey conservatory building to the rear of the rear garden, including an aluminium framed openable rooflight and with walls and glazed openings to match with main house and extension; installation of a double-glazed window to replace existing to the front elevation at lower ground floor level rebuilding of the west side garden wall shared with No.2 St Peter's Villas with brickwork to match existing to a height of 2 metres; and internal alterations to include general refurbishment.

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING

135 Talgarth Road London
W14 9DA 2016/04042/FUL

Retention of double glazing to north elevation facing studio window.

16 Ravenscourt Gardens London W6 0TU
2016/04216/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; and erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition.

SonyEricsson House 202 Hammersmith Road London W6 7DJ
2016/04046/FUL

Replacement of existing ground floor main entrance doors to the front elevation with frameless glass doors; replacement of 2no. existing external lights either side of the main entrance doors with new up and down wall light fittings; installation of 6no. aluminium PPC louvered grilles to the rear elevation (2no. at lower ground floor level, 2no. at ground floor level and 2no. at first floor level); installation of new cycle racks for 24no. bicycles to the rear courtyard; installation of timber decking and planting to the front lightwell area to create a front garden; replacement of existing signage above the main entrance doors to the front elevation with a new non-illuminated entrance signage; and planting of a mature False Acacia tree by the front entrance to match the adjacent tree.

1 St Peter's Villas London
W6 9BQ 2016/03959/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition, including aluminium framed double-glazed bifold doors to the rear elevation, with an aluminium framed openable rooflight to the roof of rear extension, and a double-glazed structural glass roof over the entire length of the side extension; erection of a single storey conservatory building to the rear of the rear garden, including an aluminium framed openable rooflight and with walls and glazed openings to match with main house and extension; installation of a double-glazed window to replace existing to the front elevation at lower ground floor level; and rebuilding of the west side garden wall shared with No.2 St Peter's Villas with brickwork to match existing to a height of 2 metres.

2 - 4 Peterborough Mews London SW6 3BL
2016/04238/FUL

Amendments to planning permission reference: 2016/01066/FUL granted 16th June 2016 for the "Erection of a

hip to gable end roof extension; raising the ridge of the main roof in connection with the erection of an additional floor at roof level; excavation under the footprint of the building in connection with the formation of a new basement; erection of new trellis at the front of the building; alterations to the front forecourt; raising of the front and rear parapet walls; alteration to the first floor roof of back addition to include installation of a new glazed roof light; alterations to the front fenestration to include installation of new windows at first floor level, new windows and doors at ground floor level to replace doors and windows; alterations to the rear fenestration to include installation of new windows to replace the existing windows at ground floor level." Amendments to include the replacement of the approved flat skylight to the roof extension with a glazed sky-lantern. Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 1st November 2016. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013

NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13

Flat A 35 Findon Road London
W12 9PP 2016/03921/FUL

I give notice that Mr John Coles is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Demolition of existing two storey residential property and the erection of a replacement three storey single family dwelling house.

First And Second Floors
221 Munster Road London
SW6 6BU 2016/03760/FUL

I give notice that Mr Jasdeep Puri is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of an additional floor at roof level and erection of a rear extension at third floor level over part of the existing back addition, in connection with the creation of a self-contained studio flat; conversion of existing first and second floor maisonette into 2no. self-contained one bedroom flats.

2 - 14 Shortlands London
W6 8DJ 2016/04025/FUL

I give notice that Viewwanks Ltd is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Demolition of the existing building and redevelopment for a mixed use development comprising a building of 3 and 9 storeys plus basement to provide 11 residential units and 691sqm (GEA) of office (Class B1) space (with plant provided in the basement). The proposal constitutes a major development.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 1st November 2016. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**
Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the "Planning Online" logo on the Planning Home Page. You can also E-mail comments to: plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk

You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office **RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6** between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays. If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU** by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081 or 020 8753 1082**.

Email your sports news, reports and pictures to Tony McDonald at sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

sport

Surrey trio sign new contracts

SURREY have moved swiftly since the end of the season to tie three of their top players to new deals.

England one-day opener Jason Roy, 26, has signed a new three-year contract that will keep him at The Kia Oval until the end of the 2019 season. County captain Gareth Batty and batsman Arun Harinath have signed new two-year deals, which will expire at the end of the 2018 season.

Roy's deal will run alongside his 12-month white-ball central contract with the ECB. Roy scored 495 runs at an average of 45 in the T20 Blast this year. The right-hander added 745 runs in 11 County Championship appearances and scored 387 runs at an average of 43 in the One-Day Cup.

Spinner Batty, who turns 39 on Thursday, took 41 wickets at an average of 31.21 in the County Championship this year.

Left-hander Harinath, 29, scored 707 runs at an average of 35.35 in 11 Championship appearances in 2016.



Jason Roy has agreed a new three-year deal with Surrey Pic: Rob Newell

Legend Gillard honoured by new ex-players role

Former left-back named life president of The Forever R's Club

GOOD to see Queens Park Rangers continue to forge stronger links with their past players, with the news that Loftus Road legend Ian Gillard has accepted a life-president role in The Forever R's Club, the newly formed ex-players' association.

An accomplished left-back who made 479 appearances for Hoops during a distinguished playing career, Gillard formally accepted the honorary position last month and will officially be inducted into his new role at The Forever R's Club launch when QPR host Reading on Saturday.

He will be joined in W12 by a host of other ex-players: Ian Morgan, Stan Bowles, Phil Parkes, Wayne Fereday, Peter Hucker, Clive Wilson, Danny Maddix, Martin Rowlands, Marc Bircham and Kevin Gallen are among those expected to be in attendance, with a formal welcome into The Forever R's Club taking place on the pitch at half-time.

The 65-year-old Gilly, who debuted in the 1968-69 season and made his last outing in a Rangers shirt in the 1982 FA Cup final replay, said: "It's a huge privilege and an honour to be asked to be the life president of The Forever R's Club."

"QPR was my home throughout my professional career and the club means so much to me and my family," said Gillard, who earned all three of his full England caps in 1975.

It is hoped that supporters



Ian Gillard "honoured" to lead QPR's new ex-players' association

will respond to the club's refreshing new approach towards former players. Last year a planned 40th-anniversary celebration dinner, to mark QPR's greatest ever team finishing runners-up in Division One in 1975-76 (a point behind champions Liverpool), had to be cancelled due to lack of interest.

Gillard said: "The club has made positive steps when it comes to engaging with former players over the past few seasons and the formation of The Forever R's Club will only serve to enhance that relationship we, as ex-players, have with QPR."

"I'm looking forward to working with Andy Sinton (club ambassador) and the rest of the steering group in this role - it's something I'm going to relish."

One of QPR's record appearance makers, Gillard will be a figurehead of The Forever R's Club, actively involved in the matchday inductions of former players, as well as attending functions on behalf of the club.

Sinton welcomed the news, saying: "The committee felt it was important to have a life president and figurehead from QPR's most successful era and with 479 appearances to his name, Ian is the embodiment of what The Forever R's Club stands for. "We're all delighted he's accepted the role and I am really looking forward to working alongside him."

● A FOOTBALL Association fine of £7,500 imposed on QPR last Friday must be considered a tiny price to pay for their dramatic late victory in their last outing at Fulham.

Rangers were last week charged with a breach of FA Rule E20(a), "failing to ensure their players acted in an orderly fashion", during the 2-1 victory at Craven Cottage - their first at the home over their local rivals since January 1980.

Referee Lee Mason included in his report that he was surrounded by three QPR players - Nedum Onuoha (who committed the foul with a reckless high challenge), Karl Henry and match-winner Idrissa Sylla - after awarding Whites their second penalty of the game, in the 95th minute.

QPR admitted the charge,

have been fined £7,500 and were warned as to their future conduct. Not even the under-pressure bean counters at Loftus Road will lose too much sleep over such a token penalty.

More importantly, Fulham somehow managed to miss their second spot-kick of the afternoon and Rangers left SW6 with all three points.

● NOW that the euphoria of Craven Cottage has subsided, Rangers now have back-to-back opportunities to improve their form at home, where they have not managed to win in four attempts since defeating Leeds United in the opening game.

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's side are also yet to beat any side currently in the top 10 of the Championship, so Saturday's visit by Reading (eighth) and Bristol City (fifth), who are in town next Tuesday, should provide an examination of Rangers' promotion credentials.

● THREE QPR fixtures have been selected for live Sky Sports coverage in December.

The evening Championship home games against Wolves (Thursday, December 1) and Aston Villa (Sunday, December 18) will both be shown on Sky, as will QPR's trip to Brighton & Hove Albion (Tuesday, December 27 at 12.30pm).

Another fixture change will now see Hoops host Derby County on Wednesday, December 14.

O'Donnell roles back years at York Hall



SHEPHERD'S Bush welterweight John O'Donnell (above) turned back the clock at Bethnal Green's York Hall fight factory to prove he is still championship material.

O'Donnell, 30, became Southern Area champion and captured his first title since 2009 with a comprehensive victory over game Tommy Tear.

The former Commonwealth and English welterweight champion dominated the fight in which Tear was always competitive but out-gunned by the classier work of O'Donnell.

O'Donnell took some time out of the ring but late in 2015 he signed up with Steve Goodwin and has returned to action as good as ever. This victory means he

is now mandatory challenger for the English title held by Johnny Garton - but he has set his sights on bigger prizes.

"It is the British title I am after," O'Donnell said after the fight. "Everyone knows I am avoided but no-one can avoid me as long as I keep winning and picking up titles, which I will."

O'Donnell wants to get back in the ring before the end of 2016 and is aiming for 2017 to be the year he finally achieves his aim of becoming British champion.

"Once I become British Champion, who knows how far I can go from there? I will stay in the gym now with Barry O'Connell and my motivation is stronger than ever," he said.

Peter Faulkner

Chastening loss for ladies

CHELSEA Ladies had a chastening Champions League cup defeat last week. In front of 4,000 fans, they lost 3-0 at Stamford Bridge to German side Wolfsburg in the first leg of the round of 32.

The prospects do't look good for boss Emma Hayes' side in the return leg tomorrow either.

She said: "The game got settled very early on with errors, and that's what happens sometimes in football, but it's so important you stay in the game. Once you're 2-0 down, it becomes a chasing game."

"The reality is we gave the players a game-plan, we went out and up until the goal we were executing what we needed to do for the most part. There are a lot of international players on the pitch. For us to concede two goals in the first half with relative ease is what has disappointed the most."

"The players are hurt. They are not happy with that. They have to reflect honestly and then come back, be professionals, put the badge on and compete with pride. But I can't hold my disappointment. That's the best way of saying it."

"I feel like I have let them down. I'll say the right things about great numbers and being exciting and it is, but I am a competitor and it absolutely kills me we haven't produced something more worthy of the opportunity. We are better than that."

"There are players out on the pitch who have played in World Cups, European Championships, Olympic finals. The occasion should be a doddle for most of them. The reality is the players want this."

"Maybe going away to Wolfsburg will be fantastic for us, because there's no pressure. In the big games we have fluffed our lines this year."

● WHEN Frank Lampard hangs up his scoring boots, he would like to manage Chelsea. Lampard, 38, is currently in the MSL, plying his trade for Manchester City franchise New York City FC.

Of the time when he won't be playing any more, Chelsea's all-time leading scorer said: "There was a period earlier in my career where I really fancied it, then I thought I don't fancy the managerial thing."

"Now, I'm back onto it. The problem is I've got to get my badges and the hard thing for me is to have time to do it. As soon as I finish playing I'd like to take it up and maybe become a manager. I only want the Chelsea job."

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Two players who could find themselves out of the Stamford Bridge picture before long, goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois and Michy Batshuayi



Another honour for loyal Cohen

Focus on Craven Cottage

THE London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham is to make local football hero George Cohen an honorary freeman this month.

It is the highest civic distinction that the borough can grant, and the honour will be conferred at a special meeting of the council on Wednesday, October 19 – three days before he celebrates his 77th birthday.

Former right-back Cohen, who played 459 games for Fulham, his only club, between 1957 and 1969, receives the freedom of the borough due to his "lifetime achievements, and his exceptional service to charity in an ambassadorial role for his former club and the wider football community".

Cllr Stephen Cowan, leader of Hammersmith & Fulham Council, said: "This is a richly deserved honour for a sporting hero who is Fulham through and through."

"It not only marks his achievements on the football field but also his ambassadorial role and his tireless campaigning for research into cancer and dementia, especially to help his fellow players."

The announcement of Cohen's honour comes just days after his statue was unveiled at Craven Cottage in recognition of his incredible service to Fulham and England.

Fulham resume their battle for Championship points with a visit to 10th-placed Barnsley on Saturday. No club manager welcomes a two-week mid-season break and Whites boss Slavisa Jokanovic will be eager to kick-start the campaign with some quick wins.

On a brighter note, the trip to Oakwell gives Whites the chance to extend their unbeaten away record this term to six matches.

The West Londoners will welcome back several players who saw international duty in the past week. Chris Martin played the full 90 minutes of Scotland's disappointing 1-1 home draw with Lithuania in the Group F World Cup qualifier in Glasgow on Saturday. Although the forward – on loan from Derby County – again failed to find the net, Scotland manager Gordon Strachan said: "I thought Chris was outstanding up front, bringing people into the game."

Ragnar Sigurdsson played the full 90 minutes for Iceland on Sunday, when they beat Turkey 2-0 in Reykjavik.

Young forward Mattias Kait scored twice for Estonia in their 4-0 win against Gibraltar in Tallinn. Elsewhere in European qualifying, Stefan Johansen came on for the final five minutes of Norway's surprise 1-0 defeat in Azerbaijan.

Tayo Edun and Ryan Sessegnon featured for England Under-19s in their 3-1 win over Croatia in Zagreb on Friday. Also in under-19 qualifying, Atli Andrasen was introduced in the 56th minute of Iceland's 2-1 loss to Turkey.

In Taby, near Stockholm, Dennis Adeniran played the entirety of England Under-18s' 2-1 win over hosts Sweden, while Sean Kavanagh came on in the 79th minute of Republic of Ireland Under-21's 3-1 defeat to Serbia in Waterford.

Tony McDonald

Blues begin future planning

Revamp is on the cards at Stamford Bridge



This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

By Paul Lagan

WITH so many Chelsea players away on World Cup qualifying duty, head coach Antonio Conte has been twiddling his thumbs at the Cobham training ground, itching to get his charges back home to prepare for Saturday's early-afternoon kick-off at Stamford Bridge against champions Leicester City.

The Italian could have done without the two-week break for the internationals.

Having arrested an alarming drop in league form with their 2-0 win at Hull City, it seemed Blues had found a formation that suits him and some of the players.

Will he persist with the three centre-back partnership of Cesar Azpilicueta, David Luiz and Gary Cahill, supplemented by the wing-back endeavour of Victor Moses and Marcos Alonso?

Against the lightning-quick Jaime Vardy, it's a problem that Conte will have been debating with his management team, minus assistant coach Steve Holland who has become the brains behind Gareth Southgate's elevation from England Under-21 boss to temporary manager.

Holland has been given special permission by Chelsea to extend his under-21 coaching duties to the full side for the next three England games, against Slovenia (tonight), Scotland and Spain.

Holland will return to domestic duty on Thursday but by then the

strategy will be in place in readiness for the Foxes.

And it will need to be successful, because Conte knows that he is already under pressure.

The next two matches – Jose Mourinho's Manchester United visit Stamford Bridge on Sunday week – will go some way to determining Conte's future in SW6. He is five points adrift of Premier League leaders Manchester City, in seventh place.

Right now he is working with the players at his disposal. But behind the scenes, he has been in constant contact with technical director Michael Emenalo, hoping to push the Nigerian into sanctioning a revamp of the squad in January.

The club are also working on a twin-track approach to squad development.

On the one hand they are keen to be seen to promote young talent, but have been forced to accept that the first team is in need of restructuring with ready-made stars, so the likes of Ruben Loftus-Cheek will have to make do with a spell out of the league set-up ahead of a loan move in January.

That restructuring takes the form of short-term acquisitions in January and preparations for next season, when two of the squad's top players are expected to move on.

Thibaut Courtois and Eden Hazard are in line for big-money moves away from West London. Both are coveted by Real Madrid, with Paris Saint-Germain waiting in the wings.

To that end Conte has made a recent trip home to Italy to spy on Manchester City's on-loan goalkeeper Joe Hart at Torino. The England number one would welcome a chance to

resurrect his club career back in England after falling short of Pep Guardiola's exacting standards.

Replacing Hazard will be more difficult, as there are few like-for-like players in the class of the Belgium midfield maestro.

Hazard continues to blow hot and cold on the pitch, something that has irked Conte and his recent predecessors, so getting in a player who is consistent will be important for the new Chelsea boss.

So it's no surprise to find that Conte is keen to bring in Lazio winger Felipe Anderson.

The 23-year-old Brazilian is contracted to the Rome side until 2020 but with "super" agent Kia Joorabchian to advise him, a move to West London would not be out of the question.

Chelsea have struggled to get their initial top targets of late – the shambles surrounding the failure to land Everton's John Stones continues to reverberate at boardroom level.

I spoke to the Manchester City centre-back at Wembley on Saturday and his extraordinary maturity on the pitch, but particularly off it, marks him down, for me, as a future England captain – something that Chelsea know already and would dearly have loved to have had at the heart of their defence this term.

So while their pursuit of Juventus' Leonardo Bonucci for £50 million is predictable, it suggests they have not learned much from the Stones debacle.

Bonucci will be 30 by the time the season is over and the sweetener in the deal, despite that extraordinary fee, would be to allow Cesc Fabregas to go to the Italian champions as well. The Spain midfielder is touted in the

£25 million bracket, thus Bonucci's value will be around £75 million.

Well, they say a fool and his money are soon parted.

Stones, just 22, went to City for £47.5 million. Chelsea tried to get him on the cheap, when a single £55 million offer would have secured his services, and their misguided strategy annoyed the Everton hierarchy so much they pulled the deal.

Up front, Conte is still unsure about Hazard's compatriot Michy Batshuayi. He has failed to challenge first-choice pick Diego Costa, the league's leading scorer, and may well be loaned out in January ahead of a permanent move away from SW6 at the end of the season. Again, PSG are keen.

Blues' top brass have always had an eye on Borussia Dortmund's hitman Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang. The Gabon striker wants to leave the German side and while, unsurprisingly, he would welcome an overture from Real Madrid, a move to Chelsea could prove, financially, a better decision.

The 27-year-old hit 39 goals in 49 games for Dortmund last season.

Chelsea have almost 40 players out on loan and one of them, Norway international Andreas Christensen, is attracting interest from Barcelona. Christensen, 20, on loan to German outfit Borussia Monchengladbach, has been outstanding and is seen in Spain as a possible replacement for Gerard Pique.

Christensen, signed at 16 from Brondby, has only played three times for the Blues but if Chelsea continue to buy in centre-backs, he might decide that his footballing future would be better served away from London.